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As Tories slump, Whitelaw says success depends on backing P M



GUARDIAN MARPLAN INDEX

Alliance shares 6pc lead with Labour

By Martin Linton

The Alliance has sprung into a joint lead with the Labour Party at 35 per cent in the Guardian-Marplan index for May, with the Conservatives floundering at 20 per cent, their lowest level for three years.

In a single month the Alliance has leapt from 20 to 35 per cent, overtaking the Government and catching up with Labour to reach its highest figure in the opinion polls since 1981, soon after its foundation.

Now Apr Mar Feb Jan

	Now	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan
Con	20	33	36	38	44
Lab	35	33	36	35	28
Alliance	35	28	27	26	26
Other	1	1	1	1	2

The poll implies an election result in which Labour would be 'up' as the biggest party and the Alliance would not only hold the balance of power but would begin to break through at the expense of the Conservatives.

The figures appear to confirm the Gallup poll published in the Daily Telegraph last week and taken roughly by the same people which put Labour at 34, the Alliance at 33, and the Conservatives for the first time in third place at 30 per cent.

But the Marplan poll indicates that Gallup may have understated the shift of opinion in the last month, a shift which has also been reflected in the popularity of the party leaders. In response to the question: 'Who would make the best Prime Minister?' Thatcher is down two to 26, Mr. Kimmo is down four to 20, Mr. Steel is level at 16, and Dr. Owen is back at 16 per cent.

Now Apr Mar Feb Jan

	Now	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan
Thatcher	26	28	31	31	34
Kimmo	20	24	21	20	19
Steel	16	16	12	14	13
Owen	16	13	16	15	13

These figures will be particularly depressing for Mrs. Thatcher, whose popularity is now at its lowest ebb since the Falklands, as is that of her party. The polling was completed on May 13, so it will not reflect the launch of the new Conservative Centre Forward group on May 14, but it will increase the pressure for a change of course.

Conservative MPs are only too keenly aware that it is their seats which become vulnerable when the Alliance begins to climb up the opinion poll. The critical level at which Tory seats would begin to fall in large numbers to the Alliance is about 35 per cent.

Nothing could illustrate this better than the constituency of Brecon and Radnor, where a by-election is due. The Conservative majority of 5,794 would normally make it a safe seat, but this opinion poll would imply a very close result, with a turn to back page, col. 7.

Thatcher gives no quarter to 'fainthearts'

By James Naughtie, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday dismissed her Tory critics as fainthearts and sounded a defiant rallying call of renewed support for her economic policies—and shortly afterwards faced new evidence of the Government's sinking popularity.

Mrs. Thatcher told the annual Conservative women's conference that there were "fairweather friends" urging her to consolidate the gains made so far instead of pursuing radical reform. Pulling about her the mantle of the Iron Lady, she said her answer was no.

It was a direct response to the efforts of Mr. Francis Pym and others to rally support for an alternative economic policy. Thatcher's loyalists it was quickly followed by the unwelcome news of the latest Marplan poll taken for the Guardian, showing the Conservative dipping down to 20 per cent with Labour and an apparently buoyant SDF/Liberal Alliance both at 35 per cent.

For Tory MPs at Westminster last night the figures painted a sombre background for Mrs. Thatcher's show of defiance. Despite Mrs. Pym's warning that the Government's relationship with its own supporters and the evident refusal of Mrs. Thatcher and a group of senior ministers to contemplate any substantial change in economic policy.

Her message to the Conservative women could not have been clearer: "Some of our critics and fair weather friends would like us to slow down a bit, to take stock, even to let a few sleeping dogs lie. Consolidate, they say, forget about radical reform."

Mr. Thatcher went on: "There are still too many tasks to be done, too many challenges to face. Some of them present us with immense difficulties. But this Government has never run away from long-term problems and we are not going to start now."

She mounted a vigorous defence of her economic strategy and presented it in a familiar light—as the test of the Government's commitment. If it

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Leader comment, page 12; Hugo Young, page 19

was abandoned now the Tories would not be worth re-electing. "We shall press forward with zest, determination and confidence. This Government has work to do," she said. Mrs. Thatcher made clear that the course was irrevocably set, but she was careful, in the course of a lengthy speech, to open what amounts to a new Government campaign by saying that the Government was not going to be misled by the need for cuts.

This is the result of a strategy drawn up by Viscount Whitelaw and Mr. Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, to meet the charge made by many Tories that the Government has failed to get its message across. The conclusion is that great stress should be laid on areas in which the Government has increased spending. Yesterday Mrs. Thatcher singled out the

health service, education, and even the arts.

Lord Whitelaw appeared before the Tory women as well as Mrs. Thatcher and responded to criticism of the Government's public relations with a plea for more support for the prime minister. In a remarkably frank appeal he said: "We shall never win the next election unless we are prepared to stand up for our leader and give her the support she so deserves."

The atmosphere of defiance was intensified by a speech from the Chancellor, Mr. Nigel Lawson, to a small business conference in Surrey. "People say there is no free market solution to unemployment. Don't you believe it. Private industry will respond as long as it is allowed to. As long as the economy is not choked by regulations as long as the Government doesn't pre-empt resources by uncontrolled borrowing and spending."

It was a pugnacious defence of public spending controls and deregulation as the engine of growth, and Mrs. Thatcher was in a similar mood in her response to her party critics. She did not mention Mr. Pym by name, but her target was clear.

She was a radical, not a consolidator, still convinced that a policy of honest money and deregulation was the answer to Britain's ills. She strongly defended the Government's efforts to increase employment and dismissed contemptuously the notion that the Government was "too tight" to do so. She said the Government was not going to be misled by the need for cuts.

Turn to back page, col. 2

Fifty die in Beirut inferno



RESCUE PATH: A volunteer stretcher bearer picking his way through the wreckage of cars after the Beirut bomb

From Patrick Barr, Reuters Correspondent

POLICE drove mothers screaming for their children back from blazing buildings after a huge car bomb had exploded in the heart of Beirut yesterday. Radio reports and witnesses said that more than 50 people were killed and 100 injured.

The car, with an estimated 450lb of TNT, blew up as it drove through the middle-class Shun al-Fil district. Residents said the car apparently went up by accident.

The blast ripped walls of apartment blocks, started fires, burned motorists alive in their cars and crushed pedestrians. It shook the city as concentrated shelling hit Shiite Muslim areas close to Palestinian camps wracked by three days of fighting between Shites and Palestinians in which hundreds have

been reported killed or wounded.

Two people were killed and eight wounded in the shelling, which hit the precincts of Beirut airport and thudded into the beach of a luxury hotel.

It was the worst car bomb to hit East Beirut, and the first since a suicide attack

US helpless in near hostage crisis. Call for release of Jewish terror group, page 7

on a US embassy annex just north of the city last September killed about 12 people.

The explosion, at 3 pm local time, came as children were returning from school. Witnesses said that at least 15 children were killed in a

dead children from shattered buildings.

Amid scenes of pandemonium I saw shrieking mothers being driven back through the smoke of blazing buildings and cars by policemen who shot into the air to clear space for rescuers.

Panic increased after the blast when several artillery shells or long-range rockets exploded nearby as rescue work went on.

Ambulances had to dodge shells falling on other Christian districts to get the dead and wounded to hospitals spread through East Beirut.

The bomb blew away balconies and windows of nine nearby buildings and destroyed dozens of cars in the street.

I saw the bodies of motorists sitting in burned-out cars still too hot for rescue workers to touch. More bodies were believed to be trapped

under the rubble of walls blown from buildings.

The bomb dug a crater 20 feet wide and 10 feet deep in the centre of the road, turning the peaceful area into an inferno of smoke, flames and rubble.

David Hirst writes: Independent reports last night said that Shiite Amal militia had overrun much of the Sabra and Chatilla Palestinian camps south of the city and that only last pockets of resistance were holding out. The Shites were also said to have fought their way deep into the third camp Bourj al-Barajneh.

At least five people died and about 70 more were wounded when shells struck a densely populated Shiite West Beirut suburb near the coast road to the airport some distance from the camps. The shells came from Druze-controlled hills above Beirut.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NCB chief unmoved

THE NCB chairman, Mr. Ian MacGregor, last night refused to relax his hard line on strike savings at a meeting with MPs. Page 2.

Pay deadlock

TEACHERS' leaders last night refused to consider the Joseph initiative on future pay structure before the 1985 claim is settled. Back page.

Famine attack

THE Government was yesterday attacked by the Commons foreign affairs committee for failing to provide additional famine relief funds in Africa. Back page.

Tower alternative

DEVELOPER Peter Palumbo is to commission an alternative high technology scheme after the rejection of his tower block plan for Mansion House Square. Back page.

Virility test

TWENTY-three per cent of male students tested at Florida State University were functionally sterile. One cause may be the use of mattresses. Futures, page 13.

Extra Young

HUGO YOUNG, the distinguished political columnist, is now contributing two Commentaries a week to the Guardian on Tuesday and Thursday. Today, on Page 19, he analyses the "great unmentionable" in Mrs. Thatcher's Britain—the spectre of rising inflation.

Joint £480m bid for Debenhams takeover

By Andrew Cornish

Burton Group and Habitat-Mohecare yesterday joined forces to mount a near £480 million takeover bid for Debenhams, the department stores group which owns the Hamleys toy store and Harvey Nichols.

If the bid succeeds the 97-strong Debenhams chain will be revamped to bring a new store-within-a-store shopping concept to British High Streets.

City Notebook, page 22; Burton way, page 23

and property group, and the American stores group, Sears Roebuck. The tantalising prospect of a huge City takeover battle was enough to send Debenhams shares soaring by 30p to 36p. Six weeks ago they traded at 22p each.

Mr. Ralph Halpern, the Burton chairman, had indicated that he would not bid for Debenhams at the recent high price levels. But yesterday he defended his volte-face by saying that although Debenhams may be overvalued, by joining forces with Habitat-Mohecare "it makes a considerable difference."

Mr. Bar. Thornton, chairman of Debenhams, is keeping open his plan to arrange a £600 million management buyout to maintain the group's independence. Last night he said: "It is a definite option, but it is premature to say anything about it now."

Meanwhile Mr. Halpern, who rose from stores trainee to head the Burton group, and Sir Terence Conran, who has been running the Habitat group, are both enthusiastic about bringing Galleria, or store-within-a-store shopping to Britain.

Galleria shopping is common on the Continent and in the United States. Burton and Habitat-Mohecare would bring together their own stores like Mothercare, Richard Shops and Burton into one shopping arena, alongside new High Street "names" they plan to develop and existing retailers who would be invited to take space. Harris, Queensway, which already supplies furnishings and electrical goods to Debenhams, has ruled itself out of the rival bidders, but would be a natural partner in such a development.

The takeover attempt is an attractive deal for Sir Terence. Turn to back page, col. 6

Asian defendant 'beaten at Old Bailey'

By David Rose

The Old Bailey trial of seven Asians and three whites accused of taking part in a series of violent confrontations in Newham, east London, was expected to be announced today that one of the Asians had been beaten up by prison officers during the lunch adjournment.

Parvaz Kahn, aged 17, was later taken to hospital. His counsel, Mr. Ian McDonald, said that Kahn had been the object of an unprovoked attack of a serious kind "after refusing to eat a pork pie because of his religion."

Kahn, who denies charges of

affray, possessing an offensive weapon and criminal damage, appeared in the dock after the lunch-time adjournment with a badly swollen face and two black eyes.

Mr. McDonald rose and said that his client had been in "perfect" condition before the adjournment: "There was an incident over lunch in which he has been badly beaten by the prison officers looking after him."

Judge Neil Dennison interrupted, saying that this was not a statement of fact. Mr. McDonald said: "This statement is fact."

After a temporary adjournment, granted to allow Mr. Mc-

Donald to find out whether Kahn was still capable of following the case, he gave further details of the alleged incident in the absence of the jury.

"He was subjected to an unprovoked attack of a serious kind during the lunchtime adjournment. The question arose over whether he should eat a pork pie or a meat pie or something vegetarian which because of his religion he would normally have."

"During the course of an unprovoked attack there was also racialist abuse. If, in the face of what has happened, prison officers cannot be trusted to look after a defen-

dant of Asian origin during a trial which is about confrontation between white and Asian youths, and where racial issues are to the fore, then we are in a very serious situation which obviously everyone wants to avoid."

Mr. McDonald said that he and Kahn's solicitor had been present at the Old Bailey throughout the lunch break but when Kahn had asked to see them, he was told that his lawyers were not in the building.

He asked the judge to waive the normal rule whereby defendants on bail are kept in custody over lunch because Turn to back page, col. 4

Stolport set for take-off

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Permission for the development of a mini airport in the heart of London's docklands is expected to be announced today by the Commons by the Environment Secretary, Mr. Patrick Jenkin.

Approval for the £15 million project, known as Stolport, would bring to an end almost 24 years of controversy.

Stolport, which stands for short take-off and landing, will enable airlines to fly special Canadian-built aircraft to European cities like Paris and Brussels from a site only six miles from the centre of London. However, Mr. Jenkin is likely to impose strict rules on noise and frequency of flights.

Three small regional airlines — Brynmor, Manx and Jersey European — are seeking approval to begin services. The new airport will be built on the derelict site of the Royal Dock.

Hateley spares blushes

A goal by Mark Hateley in the second half saved England's World Cup soccer blushes in their qualifying match in Helsinki yesterday.

The Finns, most of them part-timers, had taken a fifth minute lead but although they had to settle for a draw the result was greeted with ecstasy by the crowd. England remain on course for qualification.

The FA decided that Kevin Moran, the Manchester United player sent off during Saturday's FA Cup final, should be given a winner's medal. Moran had not been given one after the match.

At Lord's the Australian cricket captain Allan Border hit his third century of the tour as the Australians reached 377 for 5 declared on the opening day of their match against the M.C.C. Simon O'Donnell, another tourist reached his century while

down in Taunton Ian Botham, playing for Somerset against Hampshire, raced to his second 78 ball hundred of the season and went on to make 149.

It was announced that the former England opening batsman Geoffrey Boycott had received a record £147,954.25p from his testimonial.

Reports, pages 25-27



...the rest is history

If we forget the past, are we condemned to repeat it? History is not just 'things that happen', it is the record of our understanding of those things. Alan Bullock's classic 1952 biography of Hitler did much to dispel the idea that Nazism was no more than an abstract evil, but rather was part of history with recognizable and thus preventable causes.

In THE THES this week, Lord Bullock asks: is history still relevant? or are we doomed to repeat all our past mistakes?

ALSO THIS WEEK.

★ The Green Paper: full analysis of the government's long-awaited plans for higher education
★ Lawrence Freedman on two new studies of the 'intelligence community'

The Times Higher Education Supplement

On sale at newsagents, every week



"I hate these dinner parties where people boast about voting SDP and then get all shy when you ask them what."

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The weather

SHOWERS and some bright intervals. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

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Austria	25p	30p	35p	40p
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Denmark	25p	30p	35p	40p
France	25p	30p	35p	40p
Germany	25p	30p	35p	40p

Print union's 'secret blacking' effort

By Patrick Wintour
Labour Staff

The National Graphical Association print union has been involved in an orchestrated and clandestine campaign to encourage its members to black the Wolverhampton Express and Star newspaper in defiance of a High Court injunction. Birmingham Crown Court heard yesterday.

The Wolverhampton Express and Star, the Shropshire Star and an associated company, Precision Colour Printing, are seeking the sequestration of the NGA's assets for contempt of court.

More than 60 NGA members have been dismissed by the Express and Star for refusing to co-operate with the introduction of new technology, which eliminates many of the NGA composition functions.

Mr Justice Hodgson issued an injunction ordering the NGA not to take secondary action in March.

Mr James Goudie QC, representing the NGA, told Mr Justice Goudie that any blacking had been the responsibility of branches of the union, for which the national union was not responsible.

He said the national union had sincerely complied with the injunction by withdrawing its initial blacking instruction and repudiating the action of any national or regional official who might inadvertently have breached the injunction.

"Any suggestion that the blacking has been engineered centrally behind the scenes is pure speculation", he said.

The case raises legal questions about the extent to which a national union is liable for unlawful action by local officials, who are not its employees, and how a court can determine whether a union is defying a court injunction by encouraging unlawful action on what was described yesterday as "a nod-and-a-wink basis".

Mr Malcolm Lee QC, representing the companies said: "The union was involved in a very skilful and coordinated campaign, necessarily conducted in a clandestine way, in an effort to avoid liability and in an effort to appear to be complying with the orders of the court when it was not so complying."

The contention that the blacking was not co-ordinated centrally defied belief, he said, citing four alleged examples of continued blacking.

He said that on April 16 four employees at West Midlands Print Services were encouraged by the West Midlands branch secretary, Mr Peter Harris, to black the regional newspaper, to take £160 a week to withdraw their labour.

At the Alan Cooley print works, Tonbridge, on April 26, the local branch official, Mr Raymond Allen, instructed NGA members not to handle a magazine advertisement for Precision Colour Printing.

At North Wales Newspapers Limited, Oswestry, the court heard that on April 12 Mr Christopher Harding, a national NGA official, addressed a meeting where the chapel was deciding whether to black PCP.

In an affidavit Mr Harding apologised to the court if his presence at the meeting had breached a court order. He admitted that he had not tried to dissuade the chapel from its blacking action.

He said: "I am certain that I did not say that the blacking should be imposed."

Mr Lee said: "By remaining silent when the decision was taken and by not pointing out that the union could not endorse any blacking action, he was lending tacit support to what the men were doing."

At the same print works two other national branch officials addressed a further chapel meeting on April 22, the court heard.

Mr Roger Cooper, an overseer suspected of the plan, said one of the two officials had said the blacking was intended to bring pressure on the Express and Star.

At the meeting, Mr Cooper alleged, the local branch secretary, Mr Philip Morgan, said he had a nod and a wink from the national union that if the blacking continued and the notice of the withdrawal of the blacking instruction was not passed to the chapel nothing would be said.

The court was told that any payment to the four NGA members at West Midlands Print Services came from local funds.

The case continues today.

Sackings will stand, MacGregor tells MPs

By Keith Harper
Labour Editor

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, last night rejected suggestions that the NCB should review its policy towards miners sacked during the recent coal dispute.

But during a session of close questioning by members of the House of Commons select committee on employment he agreed that the industry's tribunal procedure could still be used to examine outstanding cases among the 671 miners who have not been reinstated.

The questioning by committee members indicated that they were not happy at the way the NCB had handled the dismissal of miners through offences committed during the strike.

Mr MacGregor admitted that

under normal circumstances a dismissed miner would have been given union representation when his case was presented to management.

Dealing with allegations that the board had been inconsistent in dealing with individual cases, Mr MacGregor said that the only major inconsistency was that some areas had been more lenient than others.

Mr MacGregor argued that if normal circumstances had applied dismissed miners would be given the right of appeal. He did not accept the proposition from Mr John Gort, Conservative MP for Hendon North, that there had been disparity in the way areas were treated.

At one point, the NCB chairman appeared to relent and accept that some appeals might

chinery might be considered by the board. But Mr Kevin Hunt, the board's head of industrial relations, said later that it was inappropriate to use existing procedures to settle problems caused by miners who had been dismissed for serious offences during the dispute.

The NCB's continuing tough line did not end general favour with the committee, and ran counter to the evidence produced earlier yesterday by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers.

They proposed an independent umpire to adjudicate on the miners still not reinstated, but gave up hope of a general amnesty.

Mr Peter Heathfield, the NUM general secretary, concluded in answer to questions

that a general amnesty for all miners was no longer possible.

The NUM President, Mr Arthur Scargill, was stopped at one point by Mr Ron Leighton, the committee's chairman, for personal remarks about Mr MacGregor.

Mr Leighton said that the committee was only considering narrow issues of whether the NCB had acted fairly, justly and equitably.

Mr Scargill said that Mr MacGregor had made clear his true feelings towards sacked miners when he said in March: "People are now discovering the price of insubordination and insurrection. And, here we go to make it stick."

The NUM president accused the NCB of using arrest, regardless of conviction or acquittal, during the strike as an excuse for dismissing NUM members.

Only a small number of the miners who had not been reinstated fell victim to the strike on violence or vandalism. The NUM wished to emphasise that it would continue to fight for all dismissed miners.

"If a person has been convicted of an offence already paid a penalty to society and should not be punished twice for the same offence."

Mr Scargill claimed that dismissal had been ordered with discrimination as a plant, while striking miners in more militant areas had suffered working pit men involved in the same offence had kept their jobs.

The policy followed by Mr MacGregor and the NCB is apparently to dismiss from the industry men involved actively

in the fight to save pits and jobs.

Mr Scargill maintained that many cases were trivial. Some areas, such as South Wales, had reinstated most miners, but those in Scotland and Kent were being made to suffer.

Mr Scargill insisted that only 8 per cent of crimes resulting in dismissal fell inside the board's criteria of "serious offences."

The NUM is particularly aggrieved about the situation in Scotland where, he said, Mr Albert Wheeler, the NCB area director, had adopted an unnecessarily tough line.

Mr Eric Clark, the NUM's Scottish general secretary, said that 80 per cent of the cases there related to minor offences.

Coal conversion gives NCB new opportunities

By John Hooper,
Energy Correspondent

The Government yesterday gave the go-ahead for Kilroot power station in Northern Ireland to be converted from oil to coal so preserving the National Coal Board with an opportunity to improve its sales in the aftermath of the pit dispute.

The conversion at an estimated cost of £90 million, will increase the Northern Ireland Electricity Service's demand for coal by some 800,000 tons a year. An increase in orders of this scale could extend the life of Scottish mines, which are among the most vulnerable to closure.

However, it is not yet certain that the coal for Kilroot will come from Scotland—or from anywhere else in Britain. A large part of Northern Ireland's domestic and industrial demand for coal is already met from abroad.

The Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, said yesterday that "the NCB is well placed

to secure the contract and negotiations are at an advanced stage." The Coal Board's general manager, Mr Malcolm Edwards, said he was very hopeful of clinching the deal. The conversion is expected to produce savings of some £30 million a year.

Kilroot, near Belfast, was commissioned in the 1960s when oil was cheaper than coal and appeared likely to remain so. In contrast to the situation on the mainland almost 80 per cent of Northern Ireland's electricity generating capacity is still oil-fired.

One result is that the ageing coal-fired station in West Belfast, which was built to cope only with peak demand, has to be run flat out to provide the city's basic requirements as cheaply as possible.

But in spite of this total electricity costs in the province are about 30 per cent higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom and prices are only kept level with those on the mainland by means of a government subsidy.

Holloway concern at psychiatric wing

By Sarah Bosley

Proposals put forward in March by staff at Holloway women's prison reveal deep concern at conditions in the psychiatric wing, CI.

Minutes of the staff meeting, chaired by the assistant governor, Miss Gillian Pereira, and bringing together representatives from the nursing staff and warders, doctors, psychiatrists and a probation officer, involved with CI, have been obtained by the Guardian.

They reveal uncertainties about the chain of command on the wing, and suggest that present facilities could be much improved. They also suggest a system of grading inmates according to how severely they are disturbed.

"Grading would be on an individual basis and not by location within the unit. The grading would change, depending on behaviour. There would need to be a clear list of current gradings of the women. The characteristics necessary

for each grade would be decided by team discussion." According to grade, prisoners such as extra sessions within the unit would be allowed the women "consistent with security needs."

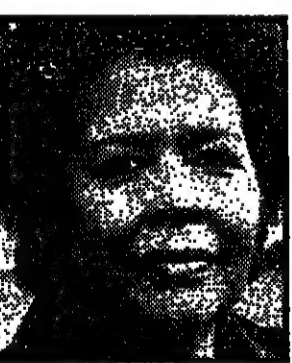
It was felt that the lack of freedom on the unit at present often prevented nursing staff from fully exercising their nursing skills.

Visiting doctors are felt to be "subordinate in management terms" to the senior medical officer or his delegate, but this is not really clear. A clearly defined medical chain of command is essential."

Ms Marie Staunton, of the National Council for Civil Liberties—which works with Mind, the National Association for Mental Health, has been campaigning for CI to be closed and replaced with regional psychiatric units—said that the decision to close staff had "no realisation of how fundamental the problems are."

Most attention at the meeting had clearly been on provision of facilities like a Portakabin and a tumble drier. "It is a typical reaction of an institution to a problem they cannot solve. They suggest a few cosmetic changes. What is worrying is the confusion it shows about who actually runs CI—whether it is the doctors or the prison staff."

After the resignation of Mrs Prue Stevenson, teacher on the skills training unit (occupational therapy) on Tuesday, the labour MP Miss Jo Richardson will be raising the CI question in the Commons today.



Jo Richardson—matter of urgency

Legion team head named

By David Hencke,
Services Correspondent

Sir John Badenoch, chairman of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advising the Government on treating flu and whooping cough epidemics, is to head the inquiry into the Legionnaire's disease outbreak in Staffordshire.

The wide-ranging independent inquiry was announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke the health minister, in a written parliamentary answer

to Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford.

It will investigate the cause of this outbreak which has now claimed 37 lives and consider the adequacy of measures taken by the Mid-Staffordshire health authority.

The other members of the inquiry are professor Francis O'Grady, professor of microbiology at Nottingham University, and Mr Dan Hannah, chairman of Warrington district health authority. Two other members, a laundress and an engineer, have still to be appointed because ministers have not found suitable candidates.

Finding miners new jobs for old

Peter Hetherington
reports on the NCB's help for mining communities

SEVEN months ago, Michael Ralton left Solgirth Colliery in Scotland with a generous redundancy payment, launched a small parcels delivery service and became the first miner in Britain to receive help from the National Coal Board's new job creation subsidiary.

This month, the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, proudly told the Commons that the board's offshoot—NCB Enterprise Limited—had now generated 300 jobs in mining communities, including five in Mr Ralton's business. It expected to produce another 400 soon, while a further 1,000 jobs looked like being in the pipeline.

About 8,000 men have left the industry since the collapse of the strike almost three months ago. Thousands more will soon depart, and 12 pits have already been earmarked for closure, with the axe poised to fall on more over the coming weeks.

But the bold pronouncements of Mr Walker and his colleagues, designed to usage the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill, at the heat of the strike, have now been tempered with realism.

NCB Enterprise, with a budget of £10 million, may indeed stimulate the entrepreneurial seal of some men.

But it cannot help to compensate for the mounting job losses in Scotland, the North-east, South Wales and South Yorkshire, where the board could announce up to 2,000 more redundancies tomorrow.

Mr Ralton, a former underground engineer who now operates three 35 cwt vans, has been a success story of the National Development Agency.

He is grateful for the help and advice he received from the agency, which has turned up to £50,000 this year. But he feels that the 12 per cent interest he is being charged on a loan is rather prohibitive.

He is critical of the Government. "They make so many noises about helping small businesses, but when it comes down to the nitty-gritty and a guy needs help on the ground, they're just not there."

So far, NCB Enterprise has shelled out £1 million to his men and companies in coal communities—who have launched ventures ranging from chemical cleaning products to tea rooms. Some have secured local enterprise trusts, it is now backing two larger "secret ventures"—one a company to produce said to be a brand new product, newsagents, bakeries, confectionery and ice cream salesmen.

But the subsidiary, still in its infancy, is becoming more adventurous. Working alongside council and local enterprise trusts, it is now backing two larger "secret ventures"—one a company to produce said to be a brand new product, newsagents, bakeries, confectionery and ice cream salesmen.

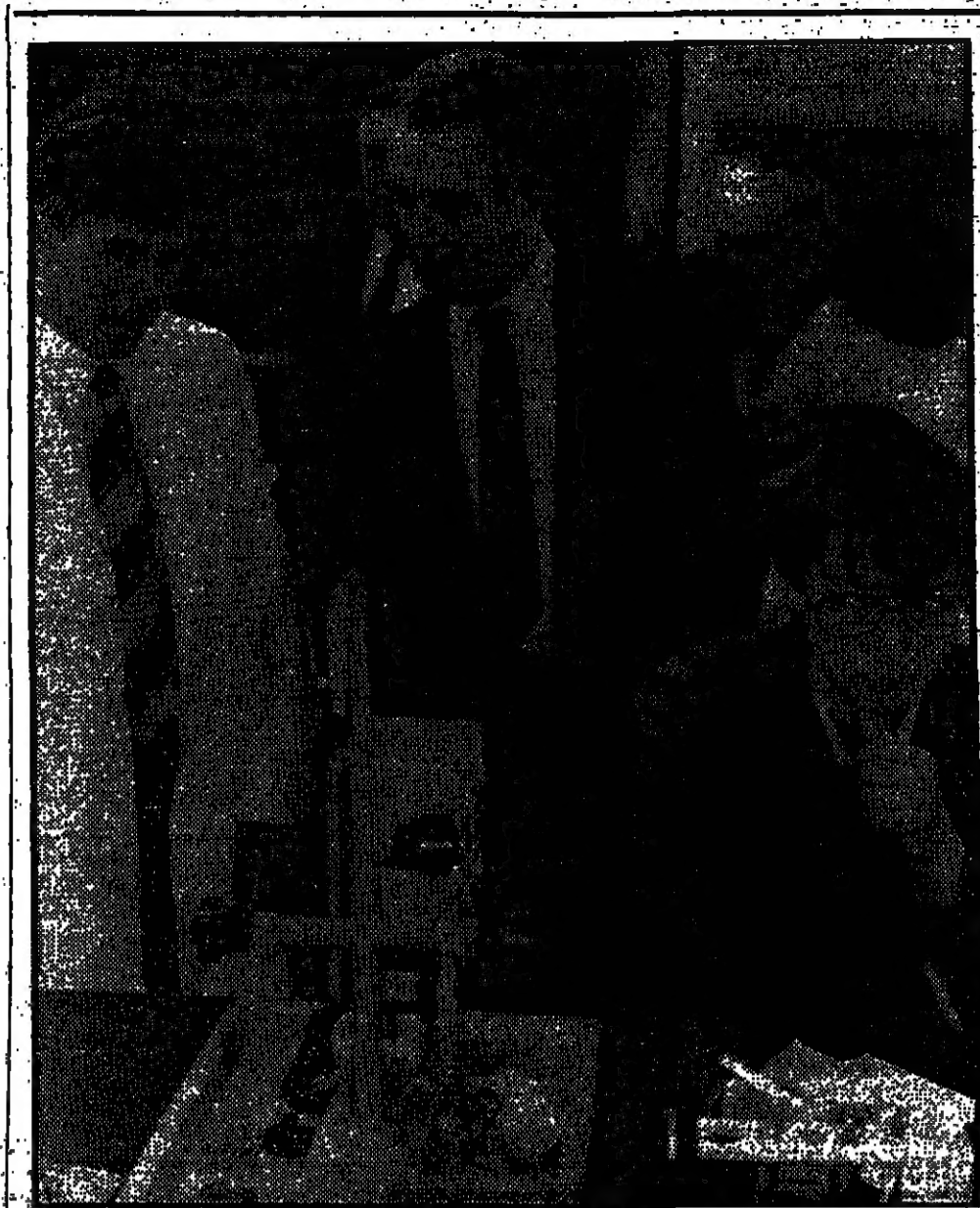
NCB Enterprise is modelled largely on the British Steel Corporation's job creation arm, BSC Industries.

Mr Tony Hewitt, a senior coal board accountant from Barnsley who is executive director of NCB Enterprise, said that the company could only act as a catalyst by stimulating initiative away from the pithead or in converted factories and workshops on old coal board sites.

"I am not gearing what we are doing to replacement of job losses in mining or in any other industries. We are trying to create job opportunities in mining areas for the whole community."

NCB Enterprise, which has been set up by government funds if necessary, has the experience of BSC Industries to build on. Since 1978, with the round of steel closures, it has channelled £27 million from BSC to more than 2,000 projects in 13 areas.

It has helped create 30,000 jobs in partnership with government agencies, local trusts and councils, and is now self-supporting.



EXPERIMENTAL LOOK: Sir Keith Joseph during the opening of new science laboratories at the European School, Culham, Berkshire. Picture by Frank Martin

Decline 'linked to poor schools'

By Peter Rodgers,
City Editor

Britain's economy may be falling behind because schools are bad at educating average and below average children rather than because of any deficiencies at the top end of the educational scale, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Comparing England and Germany, the institute's quarterly review says the strengths of English grammar and public schools are much admired abroad.

Wagner, quoted by Sir James Dewar in a 1992 address to the British Association as saying: "It is in the abundance of men of ordinary, plodding ability, with less knowledge of mathematics and science than their counterparts abroad."

The institute links problems of economic decline, such as fewer apprentices hired by manufacturing industry.

A significant number of firms surveyed by the Confederation of British Industry and their output limited because they cannot find skilled labour.

The institute is one of the best known economic forecasting bodies, although its Keynesian views have rubbed it of influence with the Government.

The comparison between England and Germany, in a paper by S. J. Prads and Karin Wagner, was made by Sir James Dewar in a 1992 address to the British Association as saying: "It is in the abundance of men of ordinary, plodding ability, with less knowledge of mathematics and science than their counterparts abroad."

has no commanding an advantage."

Now the scope for unskilled labour has been cut by automation. "The need to raise the level of competence of those of average and below average ability has acquired an even greater urgency."

The institute says that the immediate requirement is to raise the numerical skills of the majority of school pupils and encourage practical education, with more objective testing of pupils and national agreement on "core" standards.

Extra spending on changes such as more technical and vocational training in employment schemes "should be given highest priority, even though it may take 10 years or more to harvest the fruits of such an investment."

Jobs forecast, page 23

Council leader defiant over rate-cutting order

By Jean Stead,
Scottish Correspondent

A Labour council, Edinburgh, will refuse to adjust its budget to comply with government plans announced yesterday to cap its rates, its leader said last night.

The Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, ordered Edinburgh council to cut its rates by 5.2p in the pound after it had broken government rates limits by 48 pence.

The rates order would reduce the average bill by £38.

Mr Alec Wood, the council leader, said that if the council met this appalling cut it would be equivalent to agreeing the budget proposed by the Tory minority.

The Tories had proposed a rate of 15.7p in the pound, compared with the 22.7p rate brought by Labour.

A poll had shown that people preferred improved services to a reduction in rates

by a majority 2-1.

Edinburgh is £17.3 million above the guidelines, with the Labour administration pledged to spend more on creating jobs and improving housing.

The proposals would bring rate spending down to £1 million above the guidelines, equivalent to a 5 per cent overspending.

The council has until June 12 to submit comments to Parliament. The Scottish Secretary said that the rates would be cut automatically if Parliament agreed with the order. Legal officers would be sent in to enforce this.

Edinburgh has frozen rents, reduced recreation charges and taken on 200 staff this year.

Mr Younger told Stirling council to cut its rates by 5p, saving £22 on the average bill. It was told to revise its housing estimates and to cut its rate from 23p to not more than 20p.

Nupe 'Tory' shares row

Leaders of the Leftwing National Union of Public Employees disclosed yesterday that they had been investing in companies which were leading contributors to Tory Party funds.

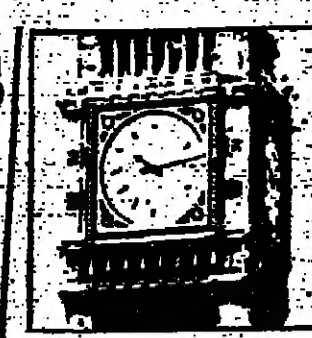
Nupe's chairman, Mr Diwyw Davies, had to call for a vote repeatedly when its annual conference in Scarborough was told of the investments. One delegate said that the union's financial report and accounts should not be approved until the shares were sold.

Mr Dulcie Pitcock, of the Glamorgan branch, said Nupe had been investing in Marks and Spencer, Trafalgar House, House of Fraser, MFI and

Tarmac. It was discovered later that the union also had shares in Hambro, Racal and Sun Alliance, all said to be contributors to Tory Party funds.

The treasurer, Mr John Bull, said: "I didn't know until Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary, saw me this morning that all these firms contributed to the Tory party."

"If you have any evidence we have not got, please let us know." One delegate threw a Nupe briefing document at him containing names of 140 firms contributing to the Tories. Mr Bull told delegates that the firms' names would not be on the union's portfolio next year.



David McKie

Mac gets knifed in a place of strife

THE Commons will get its change in the autumn to debate the admission of the television cameras. Now that the Lords are daily gathering glory, now that even Mrs Thatcher has changed sides, they will probably agree to let them in.

A shame that it will have come too late to capture yesterday's proceedings of the Commons select committee on employment, which developed through the day into a rigorous and gripping courtroom drama as anything you will see on the box this year.

Before the court, flanked by officials, was the Coal Board chairman, Ian MacGregor. What the committee wanted to know was how the board had decided who got sacked and who then got reinstated during the miners' strike and, thereafter, why there seems to be such astonishing discrepancies between areas like North Derbyshire (four in 10 taken back) and Scotland (no one taken back at all).

They had had Arthur Scargill, Peter Hetherington and Scottish NUM leader, Eric Clarke, to help them with their inquiries in the morning. "Discrimination on a blatant scale," Arthur called it. "Ornate, vindictive, ultimately counter-productive strategy."

This was a subdued Mr Scargill though, with little of the bounce and fight of the days when the strike still raged and Arthur was acknowledged king. There was the occasional nostalgic flash. "Your point of order," he

told a Tory MP who was trying to halt the flow "is unjustified. But the one open clash of the morning with the Conservative MP for Banbury, Tony Baldry, was more the product of Mr Baldry's portentous district attorney manner than any provocation of fact."

The afternoon, though, more than made up for the morning's languors. Mr MacGregor began by reiterating the NCB guidelines: no reinstatement of those guilty of severe violence, intimidation or vandalism; local discretion everywhere else. It would be wrong, he said, to impose a standard national policy; discretion was exercised by those closest to the action.

As for Scotland, one reason why reinstatement was so low was the state of letter, reinstatement offences like petty theft, which had led to sackings elsewhere, had not happened in Scotland. The Scots, he explained with a ghost of a smile, were more honest than the rest of the country.

Then the committee fell upon him. Gently at first with Tory backbencher, John Gort, troubled rather than outraged at the board's failure to invoke conciliation procedures normal in cases of dismissal. But these, said Mr MacGregor, had not been normal times. And in any case, those who felt aggrieved could still go to industrial tribunals and fewer than half those sacked in Scotland had done so.

Then came the young Scottish Labour MP, Gordon Brown. In the morning he had been feeding helpful peaches to the NUM team. Now he gave MacGregor what must have been one of the roughest 20 minutes he had had to endure even in his last two trouble-packed years.

They hadn't used normal procedures in abnormal, strike-bound times; but why hadn't they used them in cases which had arisen since the strike was over? A long, fatal pause. "That," said Mr MacGregor, "is an interesting point."

He never recovered. More and more he had to turn to officials for urgent information. Aid. Greville Jenner (Lab, Leicester W) who is a real QC (Gordon Brown is only a reformed journalist) pitched in with barrage of questions he knew the Coal Board chairman would not be able to answer. ("And please don't consult," he implored him). This was not just theatre: it was almost a theatre of cruelty.

The trouble was that Mr MacGregor could not see rescue even when it reared up in his face. One helpful soul asked him to comment on the fact that dismissals in Scotland had been lower in the strike year than in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones. An ideal in previous ones.

Mr MacGregor said that the £22 million year generated by the ATRF will go towards insurance premiums which will provide a further £20 million of cover against a collapse.

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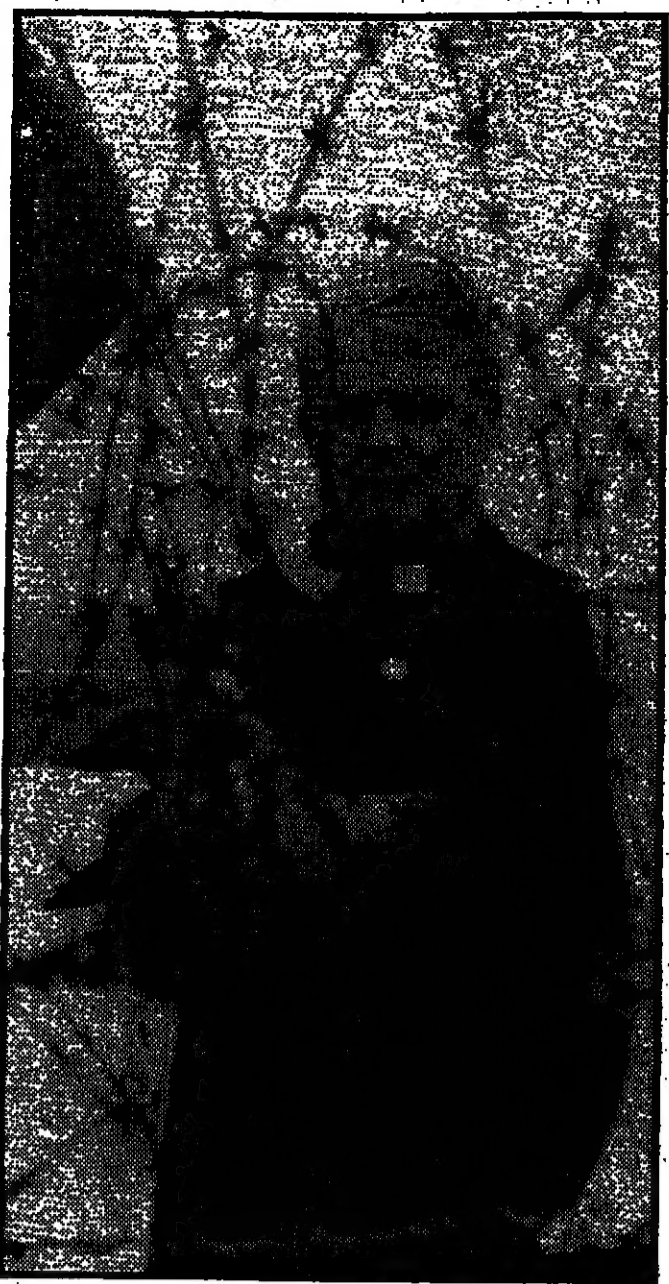
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Monsieur Bruce Kent (left) reading an appeal to servicemen and police. Retired Air Commodore Alastair Mackie (above), one of the campaigners, with two of those they seek to persuade. Pictures by Martin Argles

Group urges cruise guards to rebel

SERVICEMEN and Ministry of Defence policemen at the proposed cruise missile base at Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, were urged yesterday by 22 anti-nuclear campaigners to disobey their orders.

The campaigners handed in a letter at the base which claimed that cruise missiles are illegal. The campaign for Nuclear Disarmament solicitor, Mr Brian Raymond, said that it was possible that the 22 signatories to the letter could be charged with incitement to disaffection.

Monsieur Bruce Kent, CND's general

secretary, read from the letter yesterday to Ministry of Defence police patrolling inside the base's high security fence.

"This is an appeal to members of the armed forces of all countries and all those employed to help them guarding, maintaining and preparing first strike nuclear weapons. These weapons are illegal," he said.

"We urge you to refuse to obey illegal orders such as those requiring you to guard, maintain or transport any nuclear weapons of first use such as cruise

'Witnesses inaudible for noise of traffic'

Courts forced into unfit rooms, says appeal judge

By Malcolm Dean

High Court hearings are taking place in rooms not fit to be courts because of the pressure of cases, according to Sir Roger Parker, a Court of Appeal judge.

Sir Roger disclosed that the transcript from one room which was being used by the Court of Appeal in the Royal Courts of Justice in London included several gaps because the transcriber had been unable to hear witnesses for the noise of traffic outside.

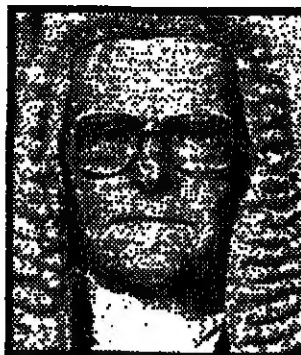
"One has a choice between opening the windows and being unable to hear for the roar of the traffic in the Strand or keeping them closed and suffering from increasing lack of oxygen so bad that one sometimes has to use one's last gasp in announcing an adjournment at 3 pm or finding that by 4.15 pm everyone is asleep."

Sir Roger, who was promoted from the High Court to the Court of Appeal in 1983, was delivering the annual Denning lecture to the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry.

He said that the pressure of work had become so intense that 15 rooms in the Royal Courts and eight in other buildings were being used to accommodate High Court judges.

Sir Roger went on: "All are only fit for temporary use for High Court work, some are not fit for such work even temporarily."

"In one such so-called court, for example, the witness is so



Sir Roger Parker—'courts under pressure'

close that he can see what the judge is writing.

Sir Roger said that an independent government survey had shown that 20 new courts were needed by the High Court. If the administrators were lucky the proposal to provide 12 new courts next to the Thomas More building would be approved and implemented within four years.

There was a longer term plan for 18 courts in the east wing of the Royal Courts.

Sir Roger also criticised certain recent innovations to make the courts more efficient. He said that the introduction of two judges in place of three in the High Court and Court of Appeal did not improve the product. "It does no more than enable more products to be produced."

Outside London, the judge noted, county court trial centres had been established in certain places, but the quality of judges in such cases were too unpredictable. "The burden on the High Court will only be reduced when the quality of the county court trials is improved."

He also criticised solicitors for placing too many documents in court briefs. They failed to select and failed to get counsel to select. Poor collation created much confusion and frequent pauses as parties searched for the correct page.

"In one very long case I kept note with a stop watch of the time taken up in such fruitless activities and by the end of the seventh day one complete day was attributable to such matters. There were four parties, each with two counsel, solicitors partners and expert witnesses in attendance. The cost was astronomical."

Drastic measures were needed. One option was to adjourn a case at the expense of the solicitors until the documents were in order. There was also a need to improve cross-examination, too much of which was irrelevant at present. Two questions should be asked: "What is your best case? What is the worst case against you?"

Lack of supervision 'puts pupils at risk'

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Children are in danger and heads are under intolerable stress because many teachers opt out of lunchtime supervision, the biggest head teacher union said yesterday. Leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers will urge the association's conference next week to back a campaign on the issue, with action ranging from closing their schools at lunch-time to alerting parents, school governors, and local authorities' insurance companies about the potential dangers to children during inadequately supervised midday breaks.

Extra money to cover Friday supervision costs, promised by the government on Tuesday, was not sufficient reason to call off the campaign, NAHT leaders said yesterday.

It was promised for 1986-7 but only on condition that agreement was reached on a conditions of service package.

"Midday supervision is a separate issue," said the union's general secretary, Mr David Hart.

But Sir Keith had not said whether it would be paid to teachers or to ancillary supervisors—the dinner ladies—and if it went into the rate support grant settlement, each local authority would decide how to spend the money.

"We want a national agreement," Mr Hart said. "I do not like the prospect of negotiating 104 separate deals."

A NAHT survey, released yesterday, showed that at the end of last month 38 per cent of heads relying supervised at midday without any other teacher to help. Two thirds of the heads were supervising on their own or had only one teacher to help.

Dinner duty used to be accepted as part of a teachers' normal job until a 1968 agreement with the Government established that it was voluntary. During the present pay dispute members of the two main teacher unions have been instructed to do midday duties.

A more whole-hearted welcome of Sir Keith's statement came from the general secretary of the other heads' organisation, Mr Peter Snape, of the Secondary Heads Association. Having accepted that dinner duties were voluntary, said Mr Snape, Sir Keith could not go back on it.

Prison officers threaten to ban Guardian reporter

By Aileen Ballantyne

The Prison Officers' Association threatened yesterday to remove the Guardian's accreditation to cover the conference, depending on the contents of today's paper.

A motion that the newspaper's representative should be asked to leave the Portsmouth conference was put by Mr Graham Harrison, chairman of Risley remand centre branch.

The POA's chairman, Mr Colin Steel, said delegates should postpone discussing the motion for 24 hours and reconsider it in the light of what was said in today's Guardian.

Mr Harrison was complaining about a front page article in Wednesday's Guardian about government cuts in prison officers' overtime, and a leading article in Tuesday's.

Some of you may have noticed today an article in the Guardian, which used to be my favourite newspaper, he said.

"I am disgusted that the Guardian reporter continues to inform the public that we are protesting about cuts in overtime when they know full well that our concern is not cuts in overtime, but that without overtime we could not meet our commitments to the inmates put in our charge."

what was not written. It is typical yellow press — misrepresenting what was said."

Mr Steel said he was disappointed by what he described as the newspaper's "very unbalanced and irresponsible reporting," and he had spoken to the Guardian reporter about it. "This will do nothing other than to provide another sensational byline for the Guardian if we ban her from this conference," he said.

"This is the first time that anyone has suggested that a member of the press should have his credentials withdrawn."

Mr Peter Rushworth, deputy general secretary, said the Guardian had proved in 1980 during the POA dispute that it was on the side of the Home Office.

Mr Steel also criticised press coverage of the association on Tuesday and referred participants to the Guardian in reading an extract from a POA magazine of 1929.

"There was a time when almost any unscrupulous journalist could draw a substantial sum for an article on the prison service," he said. "Provided truth was at a minimum, or entirely absent, such piffle generally found a ready sale. It was ever the best seller. Times did not change."

The Guardian will continue to report the conference.

Flying in face of food

By Martin Walwright

Birds got a break yesterday at Fortnum and Mason's, the London gourmet store where they usually feature as gulls' eggs (35p each) or goose liver mousse (£5.75 for a small tin).

An appeal for £1.5 million in memory of the comedian Eric Morecambe, a keen ornithologist, was launched at the shop by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Shaw business figures were there but the key guests at the lunch were

from the business world. The junior environment minister, Mr William Waldegrave, announced eight new special protection areas for birds in Britain. The RSPB is spending more than £2 million this year on buying reserves and needs the Morecambe appeal to replenish its reserves.

Meanwhile, the Welsh region of the charity announced that egg-thieves had raided nine of the 30 known nesting sites of the Red Kite, six more than last year.

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RUC and Garda disagree on killers' origin Police rift widens over IRA bombing at border

By Paul Johnson
Belfast

The rift between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Garda widened yesterday as recriminations continued over the IRA killing earlier this week of four police officers at a border crossing on the Belfast to Dublin road.

The Irish government said yesterday that it had definite information that the 1,000lb bomb which killed the police officers had been detonated from the northern side of the border. That is at odds with a statement made soon after the explosion by the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, Sir John Hermon.

He called for an urgent meeting with the Garda Commissioner, Mr Laurence Wren, after claiming that the men who carried out the bombing and the explosives they employed had come from the Republic.

It seems that the RUC is depending on intelligence information rather than hard evidence for its allegations. But a spokesman for the Dublin government claimed yesterday that a senior RUC



Sir John left, and Mr Wren—
call for meeting

officer had been detonated on the northern side of the border.

The spokesman said that "finger pointing by the RUC" would not help co-operation between the two forces.

Up to last night the RUC had not received a reply from Mr Wren about the requested meeting with Sir John Hermon. Although the two men face a common enemy in the IRA their relationship is virtually non-existent. It is thought that they

have not met or spoken for more than two years.

Mr Gerry Adams, in Dublin yesterday to launch the Sinn Féin campaign in the country's local government elections, said he did not think that the bomb attack would cost his party votes.

Asked about the killings by the IRA, he said: "The way to resolve this is not to shed crocodile tears but meaningfully try to resolve the problem which causes the killings."

Three of the four victims of the blast were buried yesterday. At the funeral of reserve constable Steven Rodgers, aged 19, in Dunsurry near Belfast, the former moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Dr Tom Simpson, appealed for calm.

Politicians and churchmen on both sides of the border and around the world must support the security forces and not indulge in unjust criticism, he said.

Also buried yesterday were Inspector James Wilson, aged 28, a father of two, after a service at Moira Presbyterian Church; and Constable David Baird, 22, a single man, at All Saints Parish Church, Antrim.

MPs seek inquiry on pay beds cost to NHS

By David Hencke
Social Services Correspondent

Sir Gordon Downey, the Controller and Auditor General, has been asked to make an investigation into whether the National Health Service is losing millions of pounds by subsidising private beds through the taxpayer.

The request comes from Mr Robert Sheldon, chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee. It follows a call for an inquiry by Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's health spokesman.

Mr Dobson, who earlier claimed that health authorities were failing to monitor private consultants' contracts, has accused Mr Kenneth Clarke, the health minister, of misleading MPs over charges for private beds.

In a letter to Mr Sheldon, now passed to Sir Gordon, Mr Sheldon said that Mr Clarke first denied any changes in the basis of the charges then told MPs that he had changed the system. Later, he apologised for a mistake in presenting the calculations for the charges to MPs.

Mr Dobson says in the letter: "It does seem to me that the calculation of the NHS charges to private patients remains amateur and unbusinesslike. I also suspect that the movement of these charges reflects political pressures."

He adds that the private sector also believes that the NHS is undercharging. He quotes Mr Ron Staker, chief executive of the Portland Hospital in London, as saying: "Charges for private patients in NHS hospitals are completely unrealistic. It's a quarter of the real cost of treatment."

Mr Dobson says that many "We are faced on the one hand with a private medical sector which quite openly recognises that NHS pay, bed charges are so low they must be subsidised by the taxpayer, and on the other hand with health ministers whose version of events changes from one answer to the next."



Sir Gordon Downey—
asked to investigate

Breakfast TV programme accused of 'hatchet job' on driving school

By Dennis Barker

The BBC Breakfast Time programme was going ahead today with a report on the British School of Motoring and the recruitment and supervision of its driving instructors despite the school's claim that it was being subjected to "star chamber" methods.

Mr Anthony Jacobs, chairman of BSM, said yesterday—when advertisements outlining the company's case appeared in the Guardian and two other daily newspapers—that a BSM spokesman would not take part in the programme because the conditions the BBC had imposed were unfair and unacceptable.

Miss Lynn Faulds Wood, who has spent five weeks preparing the consumer item for Breakfast Time, said on the programme yesterday that she hoped BSM would agree to an interview by 5 pm yesterday.

"We have given them a list of all the question areas that will be covered in the film and we have guaranteed there will be no surprises," she said.

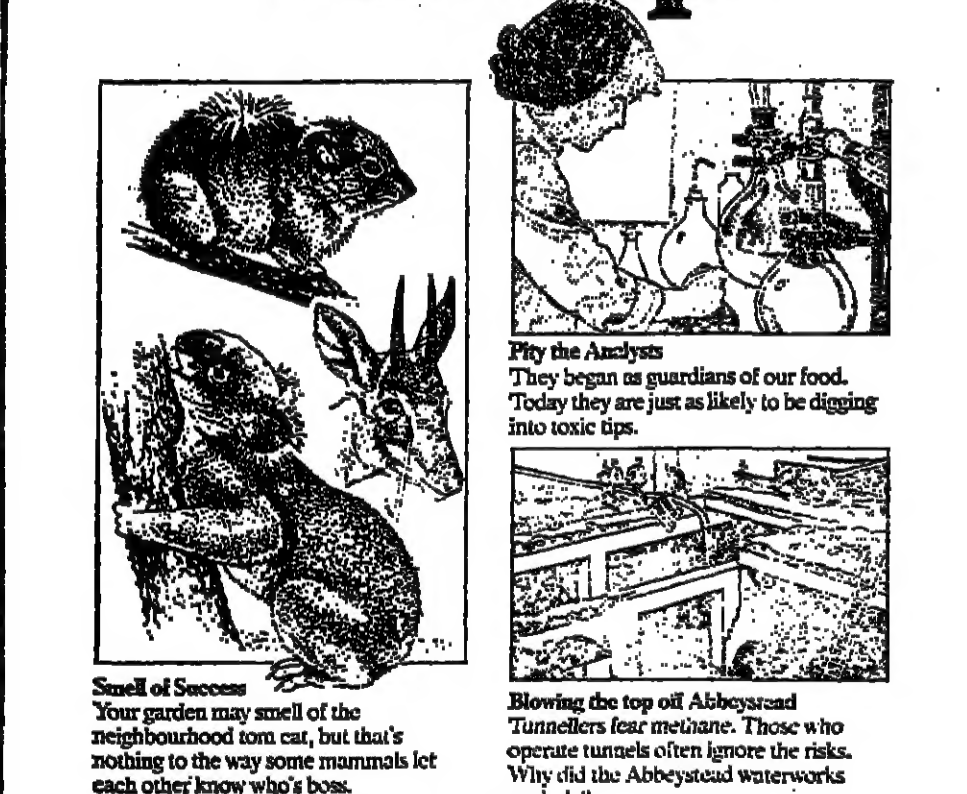
Mr Jacobs said the BBC was not prepared to reveal any of the specific allegations, or the identity of other people appearing in the programme. It was not prepared to state the estimated length of the programme or to allow the BSM equal time to reply to criticism.

It was not prepared to conduct a live interview with a BSM representative. And it would not agree to broadcast a filmed interview unedited.

Mr Jacobs, who is treasurer of the Liberal Party, said the BBC's defence of its methods was "pathetic," and that the BBC should be subject to the same rules about interviews laid down by the Independent Broadcasting Authority for the TV companies.

These required that criticised parties must be given particulars of any allegations in advance and time to consider them; and that the interviewing must be carried out impartially.

Smells. Analysts. Blow Up.



newScientist
required reading every Thursday.

Postmen agree to talks on mail part-timers

Postal workers yesterday backed away from industrial action over the proposed introduction of up to 13,000 part-timers to improve the efficiency of Britain's mail services.

The Union of Communications Workers' conference in Bournemouth rejected by seven to one an amendment from the Liverpool branch refusing authority to the leadership to negotiate on the plan to increase part-time staff to 20,000 for peak periods in sorting and distribution.

As the price for their agreement postmen have been offered a £150 lump sum payment and a £100 bonus for each year of service.

to go ahead without the payments if there is no acceptance.

Opponents of the proposals see the use of more casual workers as an attack on jobs and pay. But Mr Alan Tiffin, the union general secretary, urged delegates to give him the authority to talk. Such a decision would lead to confrontation and the membership would be hitting the streets, he said.

If you stand and fight on this I fear for you and our total membership.

Scientists start campaign to fight cuts

By Richard Norton-Taylor
Government scientists launched a nationwide campaign yesterday against plans being drawn up in Whitehall to cut the agricultural research budget by 40 per cent over the next two years with the loss of over 2,000 jobs.

Work on developing drought-resistant wheat has been abandoned and research on animal diseases and welfare and the effects of pesticides on soil has been cut heavily.

Managers are preparing to send home scientists on full

pay next year to save £2 million in running costs and equipment. IPCS scientists say that the Government is giving priority to projects in such areas as biotechnology and luxury foods in the interests of large food companies and at the expense of research which would benefit Third World countries and British farmers and consumers.

Scientists are being denied access to papers drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture's priorities board, which includes representatives from large food companies like Unilever. One proposal, according to Whitehall sources, is to sell the National Seed Development Organisation's plant breeding institute near Cambridge to a private company.

The Department of Education and Science has cut £5

millions—20 per cent—off its grant to the council and the Ministry of Agriculture plans to reduce its contribution to the research budget by £15 million over the next two years.

The ministry is also cutting its agricultural advisory service to farmers by 20 per cent, with the loss of about 1,000 jobs. The council's weed research station at Oxford has closed and an institute at Letchworth, near Wantage, which specialised in arable crops, has been sold to Dow Chemicals. There are plans to cut agricultural research in Scotland by 40 per cent.

Scientists and researchers, who distribute leaflets about the cuts at agricultural shows, have been warned that they could be disciplined.

Radio compromises on redundancies

CAPITAL Radio, the largest and richest of the commercial radio stations in the Independent Local Radio system, yesterday modified its redundancy plans in an attempt to avoid industrial action. Union members will vote on the new scheme tomorrow.

Last week the Capital branch of the technicians' union ACTT, which has 90 of the station's 130 employees, voted against accepting any of the 22 redundancies originally demanded by the company.

Church call for nuclear freeze

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland called yesterday for a freeze on nuclear weapons and for the churches to support an endowment day for the freeze on October 24, United Nations Day.

The decision was taken without debate on a report on nuclear weapons by the Church and Nations committee.

Peer's post

Lord Ingham has been appointed Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, succeeding Sir William Bulmer, who has resigned.

Service sector's poor record

DISSATISFIED customers obtain redress more easily when they complain about goods than about services, according to a survey carried out by the Office of Fair Trading.

More than half of all those who complained to shops or manufacturers about clothes, cars, food, furniture or household appliances were happy with the way their complaints were handled. But in the service sector fewer than half the complainants were satisfied with the results.

Police chief's riot tactic 'could end fan violence'

The police chief whose operation against football hooliganism led to the goading of 25 fans claimed yesterday that his methods could help to stamp out soccer violence throughout the country.

Chief Supt Harry Gelsthorpe, head of Cambridge police, said that his solution was to be very tough on the home fans. It was his decision to charge 25 Cambridge United fans, led by "General" Les Murray, with riot and affray rather than public order offences. On Tuesday all 25 were sentenced to prison terms at the Old Bailey for their part in embarrassing Chelsea fans at Cambridge in February 1984.

Supt Gelsthorpe said that although Cambridge United was only a small club, "there are big clubs with big problems who should be looking at this." It was the same story up and down the country, with fans forming elite squads to bring violence to the terraces.

The ring leaders who cause trouble at home are also the ring leaders at away matches. As far as I am aware, we are the first police force in the country to take action against our so-called home supporters.

"I think if other police forces did the same as we did and investigated the problem at home it would go a long way to ending soccer violence," he said.

Superintendent Gelsthorpe criticised some police forces for being soft on their hooligan element. Visiting fans at Cambridge were often surprised to be arrested and charged. "That's because at some clubs they are just put in a sin-bin for the duration of the game and let off home afterwards," he said.

He also advocated using the full force of the law against hooligans. "It is ironic that a small club like Cambridge, with a small crowd, should be the first to use the serious charges of riot and affray, when clubs like Luton and Chelsea have this season been the scenes of riots."

"I believe this case will deter them. I believe we have taken away some of the ring leaders," he said.

Jasmine foster mother tells of her fears

By Sarah Bosely

The foster mother of Jasmine Beckford was accused at the inquiry into the child's death yesterday of venting her resentment on the social workers who returned the girl and her sister to their natural parents.

Two years after the children went home in July 1984, Jasmine died. Her stepfather, Maurice Beckford, was jailed for 10 years at the Old Bailey for manslaughter. Her mother, Beverley Lovell, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for wilful neglect.

Mr Richard Bond, counsel for two of Brent's social workers on the case, Miss Gun Wahlstrom and Mr David Bishop, reminded the jury, Mrs Gabrielle Probert, of her contacts with the press immediately after four-year-old Jasmine's death last year.

She had been photographed by one newspaper at the child's grave. She said yesterday that she had not meant that to happen.

"That incident, along with other matters, suggest to me that your view of the case and the tragedy which has happened has very much affected your judgment of what occurred," Mr Bond said.

Mrs Probert maintained that she understood from the social workers that the children were intended for long-term foster care. She was very distressed when they were taken away.

Mr Bond said: "A very sad event gave you the occasion for venting your resentment on the social services. Mrs Probert denied this, but said: 'I was always believed this would happen. I prayed it wouldn't but I thought it would.' She had told Brent's head of fostering and adoption, Mr Jeremy Burns, that if anything happened to the children, 'I would be back.' This was why she had written him a letter of protest, pointing out that she thought the children would not go back to their natural parents because of the abuse they had suffered."

Mr Bond suggested that Mrs Probert had indulged in "a large amount of wishful thinking" and had only heard what she wanted to hear when social workers had repeatedly warned her that the children might be rehabilitated. He read extracts from Miss Wahlstrom's notes in the months after the children were fostered. These referred to warnings to the Proberts that they might only have the children for a short time.

APPOINTMENTS

Science and Technology □ Computing □ General □

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

LECTURESHIP IN ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a lectureship to be established from October 1985 in the expanding School of Electronic Systems Engineering within the newly-formed School of Information Systems. Candidates will be expected to be professionally qualified engineers with a higher degree in electronics engineering or computer science and relevant industrial and/or research experience in the area of digital and computer systems design. Experience or a strong interest in VLSI circuit design and the development and use of CAD software tools would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute and initiate research in the above fields and participate in the undergraduate teaching programme—for the BSc Honours in Electronic and Computer Systems Engineering. Salary on the Lectureship scale £7,520-£14,525 per annum (under review) plus USS benefits.

Applications (three copies) which should contain a full curriculum vitae, including exact date of birth, together with the names and addresses of three referees to whom letters may be sent, should be sent to: The Registrar, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TA. Tel: (0693) 55161. Ext: 2126. From whom particulars may be obtained, not later than 15th July 1985. No forms of application are issued.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND PHONETICS

COMPUTING FOR SPEECH RESEARCH

COMPUTING ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the above post available for a fixed period of two years from 1st October 1985. Applicants will be expected to have a degree or equivalent in Computer Science or Electronic Engineering. Experience with Assembly level programming would be an advantage. The post will involve programming to support research in two main areas: (i) Speech synthesis, including prosody, and (ii) Speech recognition, including prosody. The post offers opportunities for working experience on a wide range of computers. Salary will be on the B1 Range of the staff scale for One (Senior) £12,000-£13,000 (under review) according to age, qualifications and experience.

The Department would welcome applications from people prepared to do postgraduate, industrial or research work in the field of Linguistics and Phonetics to the Head of Department, Dr Peter Roach (Tel: 0532 62751 Ext 8276).

Applications and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT (posting reference number 102). Closing date for applications 28th June 1985.

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Applicants should hold a 1st or 2nd Class Honours Degree in Metallurgy or Mechanical Engineering or an equivalent qualification. The successful candidate will be required to register for a higher degree with the CNAH. The salary is on the scale £5,910-£6,405 per annum, which includes payment for up to 5 hours' teaching assignment per week.

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UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

COMPUTING SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Applications are invited for an appointment as a Computer Officer/Research Computing Officer in this Section. The successful candidate will join one of a number of small teams concerned with the development of networks software for a range of machines (mainly the UK Coloured Book protocols and the ISO OSI protocols). Of particular interest at the present time is the ISO FPM protocols and the presentation, session, and transport protocols essential to the direct support of FPM machine range which are likely to be involved in IBM VM CDS. Degree General, Academic, Prime, and DEC over 15 years.

A good degree and preferably a Ph.D. with considerable programming experience is required for the senior post. New graduates will be considered for the junior post. The successful candidate will be required to undertake research and development work in the field of networks software and will also be an advantage.

Salary will be in the range £6,400-£13,150 or £11,475-£14,925 a year according to qualifications and experience. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Established University post. Additional appointments may be made for three years in the first instance.

Application forms from the Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M6 6PU (telephone 0161 295 4444 Ext. 2151), to whom completed applications should be returned by June 15, 1985, quoting reference CSD/85.

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Applicants should have a good knowledge of quantum mechanics and a strong interest in semiconductor physics. They should also have a good knowledge of the English language and be able to communicate effectively. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the research programme and to publish their work in the field of semiconductor physics.

For further details and to apply, please contact the Department of Physics, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN. Tel: (0114) 275 4444. Ext: 2151. From whom particulars may be obtained, not later than 15th July 1985. No forms of application are issued.

COMPUTER STAFF

University of Cambridge

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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Applicants should have a good knowledge of computer science and a strong interest in knowledge-based systems. They should also have a good knowledge of the English language and be able to communicate effectively. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the research programme and to publish their work in the field of knowledge-based systems.

For further details and to apply, please contact the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3RA. Tel: (0223) 333931. Ext: 2151. From whom particulars may be obtained, not later than 15th July 1985. No forms of application are issued.

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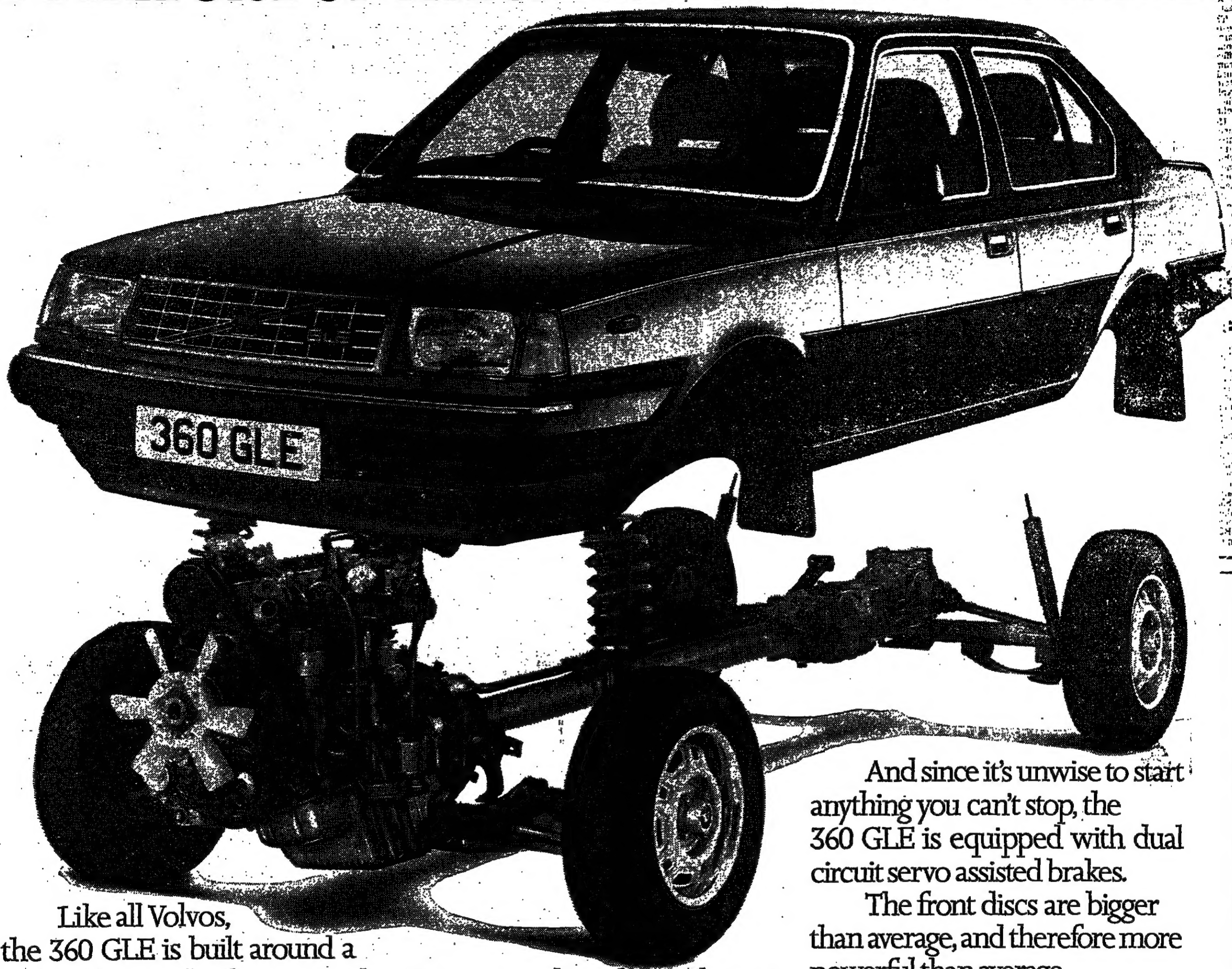
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General Dynamics told to
adopt new code of ethics

Head of US firm to go in defence contract row

From Michael White
in Washington

The chairman of General Dynamics, the third largest US defence contractor, has announced his retirement following severe criticism and cancellations of contracts by the US Navy.

But the ban on future business with the firm until it carries out internal reforms seems intended to appease public opinion while maintaining the Administration's maximum room for manoeuvre.

While the US Navy Secretary, Mr John Lehman, called yesterday for General Dynamics to adopt a rigorous code of ethics, its controversial chairman, Mr David Lewis, announced that he would retire at the end of this year.

Though sceptical Democrats turned yesterday Mr Lehman's headlines for his imposition of a \$674,253 fine on the firm for "pervasive" business misconduct coupled with a public censure for 55-year-old Admiral Hyman Rickover, founder of the US nuclear navy and a legendary figure who retired after 60 years of service at the age of 81.

Admiral Rickover's offence was that he had apparently demanded excessive gifts — including earrings for his wife — totalling \$37,825 from General Dynamics. The firm also suffered the cancellation of two contracts worth \$22 million and the suspension of two of its divisions from obtaining fresh contracts until it repaid \$73 million in overcharges and instituted a new code of ethics for its staff.

This will include an innovation whereby its senior executives must swear that its notorious overcharges are valid and not blatantly padded. But the small print of Mr Lehman's statement gives General Dynamics every hope that unless it succumbs to a suicidal impulse to chastise him, it can restore its normal working relationship in a matter of weeks. Mr Lehman rejected as unfair the demand of the Pen-

tagon's Inspector General, Mr Joseph Sherrick, that the firm's three senior executives — including Mr Lewis — be banned from any future military contracting.

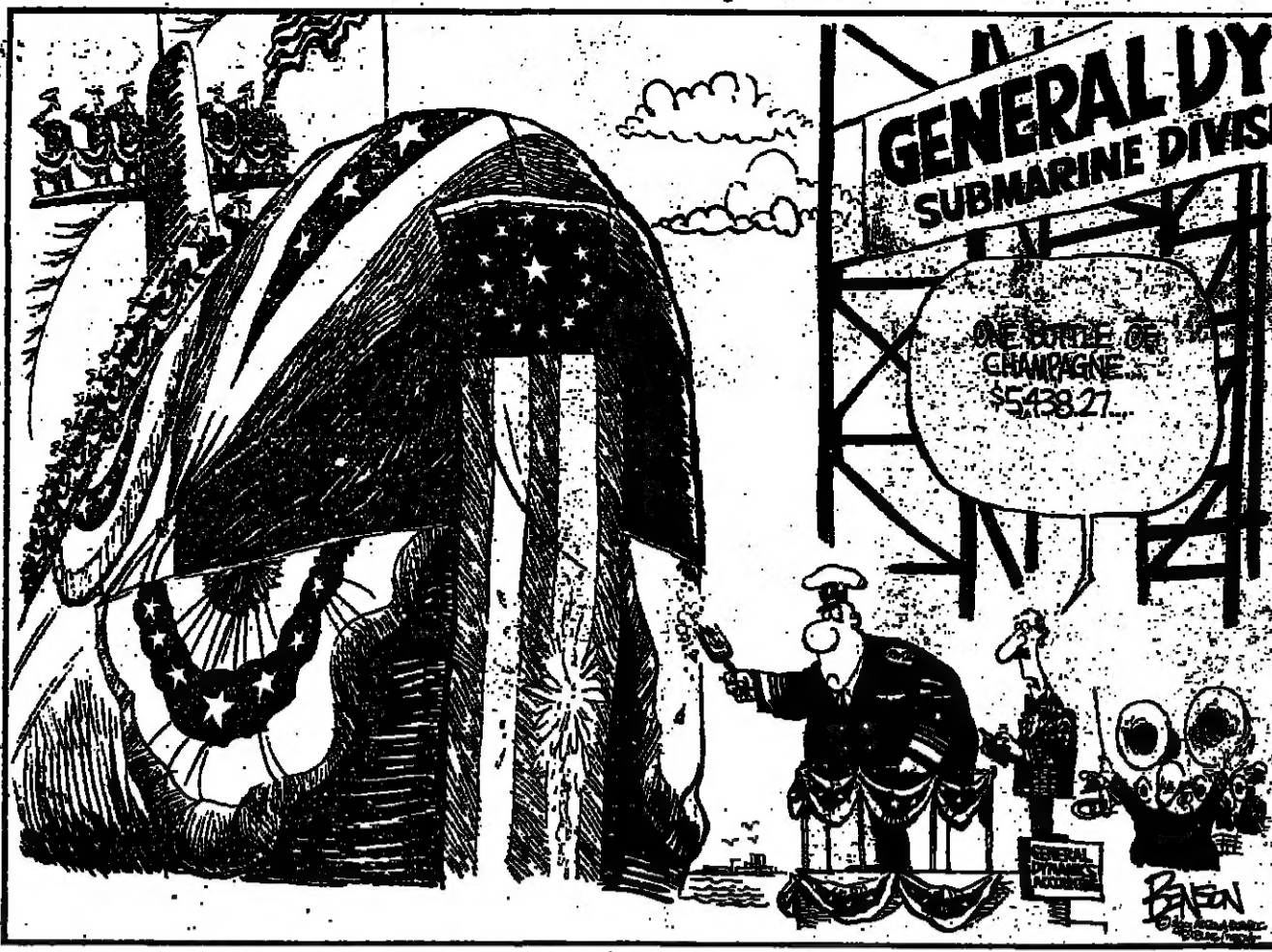
All the same, with General Electric fined \$1 million after pleading guilty to similar offences last week, the standing of the arms industry has suffered a blow.

President Reagan himself has been out proclaiming that the Pentagon spotted the famous \$800 million before they were actually purchased, though at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis yesterday he coupled it with a plea for strong defence.

On the MX, persistent tactical retreat is now threatening the much-debated missile. In response to continued manoeuvres by critics of the plan to install 100 such missiles in the Mid-West, the Administration has dramatically proposed a "temporary" halt to deployment of more than 80 missiles. This would head off an attempt being made by Democrats in the Senate last night to "cap" the deployment at 40 missiles with 14 spares in reserve.

Senator Sam Nunn, the Georgia defence expert, was unmoved by the offer since there is no authorisation to deploy more than 42 yet and the White House's move was transparent. A "cap" would be harder to get round than a "pause". Although such outright opponents of MX as Senator Gary Hart have again been prevented from killing the 10 warhead missile, designed to fill a disputed, "missile gap", it is argued by some that a deployment of 40 or even 80 static missiles — in contrast to 200 mobile ones once envisaged by President Carter — would be no less ludicrous as to be unsustainable.

The MX is seen as a bargaining chip in the Geneva talks or an option if they fail. But in reality it is also a stop-gap pending development of the more versatile Midgetman.



Nato refuses to back nerve gas

European allies reject Weinberger's argument for new weapons

By David Fairhall,
Defence Correspondent

The US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, failed yesterday to obtain Nato's political endorsement for his plan to produce a new generation of nerve gas weapons.

Mr Weinberger had hoped that allied defence ministers in Brussels would offer some sort of public support in persuading a reluctant Congress to vote the production funds. He wanted a statement which identified key deficiencies Nato must rectify if the gap between its conventional, non-nuclear capabilities and that of the Warsaw Pact is not to widen.

Diplomats took the view that shells and bombs filled with nerve gas are not really "conventional" weapons. In the end the US Defence Secretary had to be content with an in-tervention from Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary General, who reminded defence ministers how difficult it would be for Nato forces to

take arms against an enemy heavily equipped with modern chemical weapons — as the Warsaw Pact forces appear to be. The new munitions the US Administration wants to manufacture are known as binary weapons, because the chemical components that form the deadly nerve gas mix only

when the shell has been fired or the bomb released. They would initially be produced to replace the ageing stocks of gas-filled shells the US army keeps in Germany.

Britain could become involved as the base for F11 bombers or other aircraft carrying the binary nerve gas bombs. But the British Defence Secretary, Mr Michael

Rescliffe, said yesterday that although the military concern about gas warfare was well known, Britain's present priority was to persuade the Soviet Union to negotiate an agreement to ban such weapons.

Mr Rescliffe said he thought the meeting, which projects like the five-country European fighter aircraft military framework that will help Nato to plan its priorities.

The paragraph in the military framework which deals with the Soviet military threat suggests that if Soviet forces tactics continue to develop as intended for the next 15 years, the Warsaw Pact may acquire the capacity to defeat Nato from a standing start, with only minimal reinforcements from the Western military districts of the Soviet Union.

Disclosure of this alarming assessment aroused considerable interest in the margins of yesterday's meeting. But Lord Carrington played down its significance. His conclusion, he supposed, Lord Carrington said, that Nato did nothing to improve its own defences. In fact a good deal was being done.

Its improvement programme has come to be known as the Conventional Defence Initiative (CDI). It includes improvements in ammunition and military infrastructure already agreed last December.

Doubts about Burt for Bonn

By Hella Pick

Mr Richard Burt, the US Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, President Reagan's next US ambassador to Bonn, may not after all fill the post already left vacant after last month's retirement of the octogenarian Arthur Burns.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has already approved the Administration's selection of Mr Burt. But widespread misgivings developed after reports that he had been instrumental in convincing President Reagan that he should not hold a meeting with the former Chancellor, Mr Willy Brandt, during his visit to Bonn earlier this month.

Mr Burt issued a formal denial that he played any role in a decision that caused considerable offence, both to Mr Brandt and to a very large public in West Germany. The denial does not appear to have helped Mr Burt. Mr Brandt has subsequently expressed serious doubts that as US ambassador, Mr Burt will be able to establish the close links that he will need with the leadership of West Germany's Social Democratic party.

Under normal circumstances, this controversy would not be enough to lead President Reagan to hesitate about nominating Mr Burt for Bonn. However, the White House is also facing mounting criticism from the vocal right wing of the Republican party, which has always seen Mr Burt, a former journalist, as a soft liberal.

Now again, senators like the powerful Jesse Helms, are making it clear that Mr Burt's renewed bruising hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, before he can expect to win approval for Bonn. Meanwhile, a key embassy in Western Europe would be without an ambassador, and Mr Burt would become something of a lame duck in his present post in charge of US relations with Europe.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has let it be known that his choice to succeed Mr Burt in the State Department is Mrs Rosalind Elmsley, now US ambassador in East Germany. She is an experienced career diplomat, but conservatives believe her to be far more of a liberal than Mr Burt.

Disaster for the NY box office

From our Correspondent
in Washington

THE theatre season which is just ending on Broadway has been the most financially disastrous in a decade, according to published figures.

Attendances and box office receipts were both down, and more theatres were even worse off than for old standbys like *The King and I* and *Brilliant Imperials*.

So disappointing was the season that the panel which nominates candidates for next month's annual Tony awards have scrubbed three categories for the first time in the Tony's 35-year history, because there was no competition for the best leading actor, actress, and choreographer in a new musical.

Musicals are Broadway's great contribution to the theatre and its great crowdpullers, but in the 1985 season four once mighty new shows crashed within days of opening, including a new "youth-orientated" version of *The Three Musketeers*, and the others are shaky. The cause is sustained by his dating from the early 1980s, by the 10-year-old *A Chorus Line*, and a seven-month revival of *The King and I*.

London musicals, too, are suffering. Next season's British battalion of the US Cavalry may rescue Broadway with *Boyz n the City* and *Starlight Express* and *Song and Dance* from Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The statistics, produced by the League of American Theatres and Producers, show that box office receipts at the end of the season lagged \$9 million behind last year's, only the second time since 1972-3 they have not increased. Attendances slipped slightly to 7.3 million, and the number of "playing weeks" — theatre occupancy — at 1,082 was the lowest since the 907 of 1973-4. The 33 new shows which opened constituted the lowest number in any year this century — 13 of which survive, including *Starlight Express*, among them Neil Simon's *Nickel and Dime* and Peter Nichols's *Joe Egg*.

But the decline of Broadway is itself one of the great "What Ways" most enduring dramas, and the theatre world is divided about the long-term prospects as it struggles to contain the cost of \$20-45 a ticket, shows and to find good shows.

Some big owner-producers, have done well, the smaller independents less so. The question being debated in the columns of the New York Times is whether it is promising new cycles in which can and will be reversed by the excitement of a smash hit.

Mr Harvey Robinson, the executive director of the League of American Theatres and Producers said yesterday: "They have been writing this story for over 2,000 years, since the Greek drama. Two hit musicals in the season now closing would have added one million tickets to the statistics, and it would have been a good season."

The 1986 season kicks off on June 1 with a revival of *Singing in the Rain*.

Military's drug task

WASHINGTON: The Senate, reflecting increasing US concern about narcotics trafficking, yesterday agreed to use military forces for the first time in peacetime to halt drug smugglers.

An amendment, approved as an amendment to the 1986 Defence Bill, would establish one or more airborne surveillance and detection squadrons within the Pentagon to fly support missions for civilian law enforcement agencies.

Senator Dennis DeConcini, the amendment sponsor, estimated that it would cost \$100 million.

"This is a bold new plan which sends an unmistakable signal that we are launching a full-scale war against the narcotics smugglers," the Arizona Democrat said.

Despite our efforts, we are losing the war on drugs. We seize about 18 to 20 per cent of the estimated cocaine smuggled into this country and only about 11 per cent of the marijuana," he added.—Reuter.

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Transport pledge broken says court

From David Brown
in Brussels

The European Court of Justice has censured EEC governments for failing to introduce a common transport policy — 27 years after they promised to do so.

The court singled out the failure to establish the right of road hauliers to operate outside their own countries as an example of how the Council of Ministers had broken the 1958 pledge of the Treaty of Rome. That was just one of scores of complaints made against the Council of Ministers by the European Parliament, which has long criticised the national governments for failing to implement Community policies.

The court judgment set a precedent for one Community institution to act legally against another. But it does not oblige the member states to move any faster towards an integrated transport regime. The judgment specified that the Council of Ministers could move at its own speed towards its own transport objectives.

Indeed, transport ministers of the EEC, meeting here today, are expected to make slow progress on a "master plan" prepared by Italian presidency. The plan sets out strategic guidelines on most sectors, but has already irritated some member states with its vague approach.

Britain broadly favours rapid deregulation, particularly in aviation, but is vigorously opposed to harmonisation, especially in contentious matters such as lorry weights.

Meanwhile another institutional rift has opened over proposed reforms in EEC legislation on commercial drivers' hours. The 16-year-old existing law, based on the once notorious tachograph, is widely accepted to be inflexible and difficult to enforce. But the Council of Ministers is running into confrontation with the EEC Commission on the reforms needed.

Both sides want to increase the maximum number of permitted hours driving a day from eight to nine, and in compensation, to reduce the aggregate hours worked a fortnight, from 92 to 80. The council wants a minimum of 11 continuous rest hours in any one day, while the commission wants 12 hours.

This and similar disputes could bring the reform process to a halt when the ministers meet today. Under the Treaty of Rome, the council can only approve or amend proposals from the commission. Now the latter is strongly threatening to withdraw those proposals to prevent any progress.

The British commissioner responsible, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, said that the council's ideas on splitting rest periods for commercial drivers, combined with longer daily driving periods could lead to a dangerous build up of fatigue and increase the risk of accidents.



Mr Stanley Clinton Davis:
"Danger of fatigue"

Protest at boycott of RN ship

ATHENS: Britain has protested to Greece about the refusal of the Greek Defence Ministry to let a British supply ship refuel in Crete while a shooting incident lasted in the Aegean.

Diplomatic sources said the British charge d'affaires Mr Christopher Inliss called on the Greek Foreign Undersecretary, Mr Yannis Kapsis, on Tuesday and protested against the incident. 10 days ago, when the Green Rover was turned away from the Souda Bay facilities.

Greece's Socialist government is boycotting all Nato exercises because the alliance has endorsed Turkish and not Greek views on how defence tasks in the Aegean should be allocated.

Athens said the refusal to let the Green Rover refuel was in line with a previously stated policy. British officials called the incident a virtually unprecedented snub and said the request for refuelling had initially been granted, and was only later turned down.—Reuter.

ETA claims police deaths

From Jane Walker
in Madrid

TWO off-duty Spanish national policemen were killed yesterday by the Basque terrorist organisation ETA, who telephoned a San Sebastian newspaper with instructions as to where the bodies were to be found. Both had been shot with a single bullet in the head.

The deaths mark a further step in the current ETA campaign of violence which has caused five deaths so far this month.

NEWS IN BRIEF Ghanaians 'shot dead'

ABOUT 25 Ghanaians were killed by Nigerian security forces in a shooting incident last week at a border crossing into Benin when thousands of expelled aliens tried to leave Nigeria, Accra Radio reported yesterday, quoting the Ghana High Commission in Lagos.

The radio said the bodies had since been removed by Nigerian soldiers. Nigeria has denied that its security forces opened fire at the border crossing at Same on May 13.—Reuter.

Husak again

CZECHOSLOVAKIA's leader, Mr Gustav Husak, aged 72, was re-elected yesterday to his third five-year term as head of state. He became party chief in 1969, replacing the reformist Communist leader, Mr Alexander Dubcek, and was elected president in 1975.—Reuter.

Britons held

FOUR BRITISH soccer fans who were to attend yesterday's Finland-England World Cup qualifying match have been arrested by Finnish police on suspicion of stealing about £11,800 on the ferry Sves which took them to Finland. The men, aged about 20, were not named.—Reuter.

Chief of staff

PRESIDENT Mitterrand's chief military aide, General Jean Saulnier, was yesterday named the new chief of staff of the French armed forces. The 54-year-old air force general, who is on close terms with Mr Mitterrand, will take over on August 1.—Reuter.

218 rescued

A FRENCH ship sent to the South China Sea to look for Vietnamese boat people headed for the Philippines yesterday with more than 248 refugees who have been promised new cycles in France and Canada. The boat people, picked up by a French frigate, Victor Schoelcher, about 100 miles off the Vietnamese coast, "knelt on deck and prayed" after their rescue, a French crewman said.—Reuter.

Prison reform

The French Justice Minister, Mr Robert Badinter, yesterday announced measures to speed up court proceedings and reduce overcrowding in prisons, where hundreds of inmates revolted in widespread unrest earlier this month. France's 180 prisons, designed for 32,000 inmates, now house nearly 44,500.—Reuter.

Rebels killed

SEVEN PEOPLE were killed in a clash between troops and a Kurdish separatist guerrilla in south-east Turkey Tuesday, the Anatolian news agency reported in Ankara yesterday. A policeman and a civilian were among the dead after troops raided a guerrilla hideout.—Reuter.

Fires controlled

HELICOPTERS dropping water halted the spread of brush fires throughout Florida yesterday, easing the threat to hundreds of homes in populous coastal towns. All but three of the 40 big fires scattered across the state were under control.—Reuter.

Blast hurts 70

MORE THAN 70 people were injured, four of them seriously, when a popular restaurant was blown apart in the Andalusian city of Granada yesterday, strikes Jane Walker. Police are treating the blast as an accident.

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Shamir wants pardons for offences against Palestinians

Israeli call for release of Jewish terror group

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

THE row over Monday's exchange of 1,150 Arab prisoners for three Israeli soldiers intensified yesterday with angry demands from rightwing Likud ministers and MPs for the release of accused or convicted members of a Jewish underground group.

There were heated arguments between Likud and Labour ministers in the national unity government at a meeting of the inner cabinet, although the Cabinet voted unanimously to approve the terms of the disproportionate exchange with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — general command of Ahmed Jibril.

The argument in the government shifted yesterday from the prisoner deal itself to the question of its relationship to the underground. The Likud leader and Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, said that he and his party colleagues were seeking ways to obtain pardons for the 25 members of the Jewish group accused or convicted of terror attacks on Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Labour ministers said they were firmly opposed to any government intervention in the judicial process, although some of them, including the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, are prepared to consider pardons when the case is over. The trial, which began last year, is expected to end next week.

The Industry Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, attacked Labour for trying to make political

capital out of the Likud's demand for the release of the underground members. But he argued that Israel had no alternative but to carry out the prisoner swap with the Syrian-backed Palestinian guerrilla group.

Backbench Likud MPs, bitterly attacked the deal itself, despite insistence by ministers that the lives of three Israeli soldiers, captured during the war in Lebanon, were in danger.

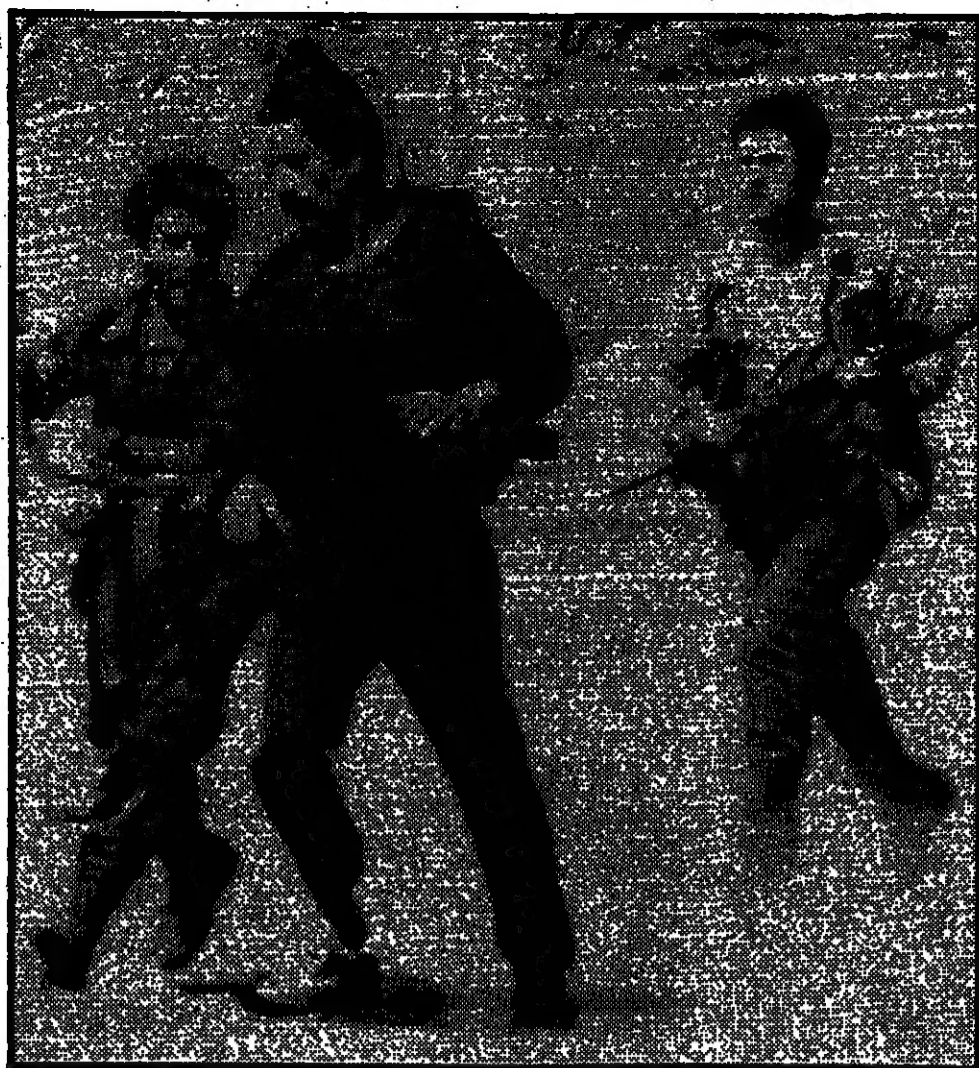
Of the Arab prisoners released on Monday, more than 150 were convicted murderers.

The newspaper Ha'aretz commented that the release of the Palestinian terrorists was no basis for the demand to halt legal proceedings against the accused Jewish terrorists.

"The extortionist norms of terrorist organisations should not be copied by the state of Israel," the paper said. "There is no room for competition with Ahmed Jibril."

A Jordanian newspaper, meanwhile, reported yesterday that Israel is to free another 1,012 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for an unspecified number of bodies of Israeli soldiers. The paper, Sawt al-Sha'ab, quoted a Palestinian source in Amman, as saying that the bodies were held by Yasser Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group.

The Israeli army spokesman said he had heard of no plans for a further exchange. Military sources said they believed that Fatah was trying to hint that it was in the market for a swap.



A Shi'ite Muslim pushes a Palestinian civilian with his gun in Lebanon yesterday after the man left the besieged refugee camp of Chatila. The captive was forced into a car and taken away by the gunmen.

US again feels helpless in a hostage crisis

from Alex Brummer in Washington

THE Reagan team, which blasted the Carter White House over its timid handling of the Iranian hostage crisis, is beginning to face the same public frustration and feeling of helplessness over its inability to do anything to bring about the release of four American hostages being held in Lebanon.

"We don't know how to deal with this situation," an Administration Middle East expert acknowledged yesterday. The official argued that the most important thing for the Administration at present was to keep a low profile and prevent a surge in publicity about the plight of the Lebanese hostages.

"The publicity increases the value of the hostages to their captors. . . that was a lesson for Iran," he observed.

Foreign policy analysts outside the Administration were quick to draw distinctions between the hostages in Iran and those being held in Lebanon. "There are significant differences," said Mr James Hackett, a former national security official who now works at the rightwing Heritage foundation. "In Iran," he pointed out, "it was official government personnel who were held, and they were in a known location."

The Administration's responses to the current focus

on the Lebanese hostages has a distinct air of the intellectual passivity of the Carter Administration which was so sharply criticised by Ronald Reagan in the 1980 election campaign. "We will work with anyone who may be able to help," is the official response to the Rev Jesse Jackson's promise to help the relatives of the men who are trapped.

This is exactly the kind of language which was used during the Carter hostage crisis, when a series of independent Americans, including the former attorney general, Mr Ramsey Clark, sought to conduct their own mediation on behalf of a government which appeared at a loss for answers as how to deal with Ayatollah Khomeini's brand of Islamic fundamentalism.

The current Administration hides behind the notion that the American hostages and the two French captives are being held by unknown groups professing to be part of the Islamic Jihad, which in State Department parlance makes them terrorists.

Despite all its bluster on countering terrorism, the Reagan Administration is looking as paralysed as the Carter Administration in its approach to the Middle East. The hijackers who executed an American and diverted a Kuwaiti airliner to Iran last December have never been brought to trial, despite warnings of dire conse-

quences from the US Government.

As the New York Times observed in an editorial yesterday: "President Reagan, it turns out, is every bit as frustrated as President Carter was in the 1979 US Embassy seizure in Tehran. No one assails President Reagan for speaking softly and trying to enlist unofficial go-betweens."

Indeed, the release of a series of captives in Lebanon since Mr Reagan took office, from the naval diver secured by the Rev Jesse Jackson to the cable television newsmen who escaped from his captors was achieved without any US Government role. This powerlessness is being taken up publicly by the relatives of the captured Americans, who in recent days have taken their campaign to the television screens.

Given the general ineptitude of the Administration's counter-insurgency efforts in the region, as demonstrated by the CIA connection to the flawed Beirut car bombing of last March, it may be just as well that the Administration is merely wringing its hands and talking tough about countering terrorism.

However, by all accounts, life will be getting worse for the Americans in the Middle East in the days ahead. The release by the Israelis of some 1,150 terrorists has been greeted with amazement at the State Department.

Turkish Cypriots to keep island troops

By John Tofole

UN efforts to produce a new peace plan for Cyprus have run into problems over Turkish determination to keep a considerable military presence on the island even after a negotiated end to partition.

Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, has told the UN Secretary-General, Mr Povel de Cuelar, that he expects to play host indefinitely to several thousand mainland Turkish troops after a peace treaty is signed. He has indicated that he has the support of Ankara for this firm stand.

Officially the Greek Cypriot position is that all Turkish troops must be withdrawn immediately, as part of any settlement. But, privately, President Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader, has indicated that he might accept a phased withdrawal of all Turkish troops.

In January President Kyprianou refused to sign a "preliminary draft" of a peace treaty, in part because it referred to "a timetable for the withdrawal of non-Cypriot military troops and elements"

from Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots wanted the draft altered to confirm that "all non-Cypriot military troops" would go within a specified time.

Mr Denktaş says that there can be no timetable for total withdrawal of Turkish troops. Instead the draft agreement should state that some Turkish troops will remain until mutual confidence is restored.

Almost 20,000 Turkish soldiers remain in the unrecognised Turkish state of Northern Cyprus. They are part of the intervention force which landed on the island in 1974 after an anti-Makarios coup organised by the military Junta then in power in Greece.

Turkish Cypriot sources say that they are prepared to accept an equal number of mainland Greek troops on the island after a settlement.

Meanwhile, efforts to end the political crisis within the Greek Cypriot community have collapsed. The two parties, the Communist Akel and the conservative Rallia, have rejected plans for an all-party national council to define a common approach to Turkey.

SA council election tempts no candidates

From Patrick Lawrence in Johannesburg

THE rejection of the black township council was underlined yesterday by the disclosure that not a single candidate offered himself for election to fill 10 vacancies in the Lekoa town council.

The council is situated in the trouble-torn Vaal triangle, about 25 miles from Johannesburg, and is the local authority for four Vaal townships, including Sebokeng and Sharpeville.

After the unrest last September, several councillors were either killed in the first furious burst of violence or forced to resign. Ten seats were vacant, but scheduled elections had to be cancelled because no one was willing to stand.

The Lekoa town clerk, Mr P. Louw, yesterday blamed inaction for the failure of residents to stand. "There is no point in even trying to hold the by-elections before November," he added. Noting that on June 16 residents would commemorate the anniversary of the 1976 rebellion by Soweto students and that on September 3 they would commemorate last year's revolt in the Vaal Triangle against increased rents proposed by the council.

The publicity secretary of the Sharpeville Civic Association, Mr Phillip Moilefe, hailed the absence of candidates as a victory for the residents. "The Lekoa council has proved to everyone else that it has failed and nobody wants to join a failing body," he said.

Meanwhile, legal observers pointed out yesterday that an amendment before parliament will effectively negate an appeal before the court by three people of whoops against their removal from white-designated South

Africa to Pachtatral in the black homeland of Bophuthatwana.

The Magopa people originally appealed to the Supreme Court against their removal in 1983 on the grounds that it had not been authorised by Parliament as required by law.

The Supreme Court turned down their appeal, ruling that Parliament had approved their relocation in advance when it voted in favour of the relocation of a whole series of black communities in 1978. The Magopa community has since appealed.

But an amendment before parliament specifically authorising approval of a removal before it takes place. The amendment is made retroactive to 1973, thus effectively removing the issue from the jurisdiction of the Appeal Court.

Legal observers believe that the government introduced the clause because it feared that the Appeal Court might rule that Parliament should approve the specific Magopa removal rather than give blanket approval of removals in advance — and that the ruling National Party might have difficulty in persuading the Coloured and Indian chambers in tripartite parliament to approve it.

South African police released a black town union leader from detention on the day he died, the Law and Order Minister, Mr Louis le Grange, has said.

Replying to a question in parliament, Mr Le Grange said Andries Radebe was detained in Thabane black township east of Johannesburg on May 4, taken to hospital and freed from detention there on May 8, when he died.

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President appeals to religious leaders to end island violence

Tamils 'part of plot to destabilise democracy'

From David Pallister in Colombo

President Junius Jayawardene yesterday personally appealed to leaders of Sri Lanka's four main religious groups for their cooperation in ending the violent conflict with Hindu Tamil separatists in the northern and eastern provinces.

During a one-hour meeting he accused the Tamil guerrilla groups of being part of a "concerted international Marxist plan" to destabilise democracy in Sri Lanka.

According to a government spokesman he said this was not exclusive to Sri Lanka. He gave as other examples the assassination of Mr Reagan, Mrs Gandhi, and Mrs Thatcher.

The meeting was described as exploratory by one of the senior Christian clergy present. It did not discuss the call from senior Buddhist monks for the opening of talks with the Indian Government and the Tamil guerrilla leaders in Madras. But unofficial contacts to involve Delhi in a negotiated settlement have continued this week, according to Government sources.

The President's special envoy, Mr Edmund Wickramasinghe, is understood to have returned from a meeting with Mr Gandhi on Tuesday.

Mr Gandhi is believed to have asked for substantial concessions for the Tamils on the status of their very distinct language, the right of the Tamil areas to elect their own district ministers, and a

greater control of land use in their home areas.

Different government officials waver between extreme gloom and cautious optimism about the prospects of a settlement. They range from a belief in a Tamil invasion from southern India, where up to 30,000 Tamils are said to be under training. With railway services to the north and the east now suspended because of guerrilla activities, the Tamil provinces are virtually under a state of siege, with the army in the north and the police Special Task Force in the east moving out of their barracks at their peril.

On Monday night, it was announced yesterday, five policemen were killed and five injured by a landmine in their search for terrorists who attacked a police station at Mannampitaya near a US development project. None of the 40 Americans or their families was hurt, but the Minister for National Security, Mr Lalith Athulthumudali, said that many people in the area had fled from the violence.

Mr Athulthumudali told a press conference that reports of the army killing 70 Tamil civilians earlier this month in the northern port town of Velvetthurai were false. Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday refused to comment on reports that up to 20,000 Sinhalese were being forced to move from their homes in the north for the island for security reasons. The 5,000 families in villages around Cheddikulam live about 25 miles north of Anuradhapura.

Martial law to be lifted

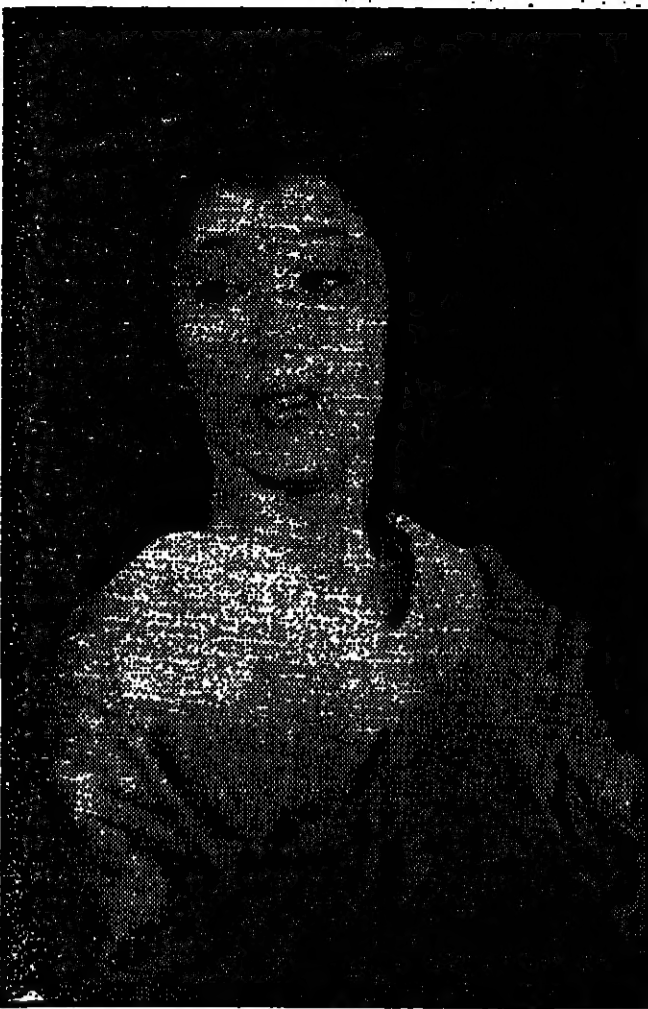
Dhaka: President Ershad said yesterday that he would soon relax martial law and revive political activity in Bangladesh.

After the end of rural elections yesterday he said that he would again invite political

leaders to talks on the country's future.

Referring to a call by opposition parties for a boycott of the polls, he said: "The success of the upazila (district) elections has proved that I was right and the opposition was totally wrong." — Reuters.

Death threats face woman who taunts Hirohito



Genshu Hanayagi: target of the extreme right

Robert Whymant, in Tokyo, reports on a brave individualist in a country where conformity is highly prized

IN A dreary corner of Tokyo, overshadowed by elevated expressways, you will find the studio of Genshu Hanayagi, a most uncommon woman, simply by tracking the ultrarightists dressed like soldiers whose loud-speaker vans spit martial airs and angry slogans up and down her street.

Then you will be guided to her door by the graffiti on the wall denouncing her as a "traitorous swine" and a "national enemy."

Japan's extreme right, which a police report says is becoming increasingly active, has targeted Genshu, a dance star, and a best-selling writer, because she has ignored a national taboo by criticising the Emperor of Japan, Hirohito.

Genshu, 43-year-old heart-throb of a generation of men now edging into middle age, last month took her campaign to the Ginza and handed out leaflets announcing: "Stop the birthday celebration of war criminal Hirohito."

It is hard for non-Japanese to grasp the full implications of such an act of protest by a celebrity of Genshu's standing. Though Hirohito was forced to shed his divinity after Japan's defeat, a

majority of Japanese, especially older people, refer to him with awe and never by his given name.

The national press, guardian of the status quo, reports on the emperor in the most respectful terms and shuns questions about his possible war guilt.

While critics of the emperor are no longer imprisoned for lese majeste which carried a death sentence before the war, Japan's unvoiced freedom of expression does not extend to declaring, as Genshu's pamphlet does, that "Hirohito is called a most evil person by the whole world. Yet the world is silent concerning Hirohito, an agent of death who massacred far more people than Hitler."

As past experience has shown, Japan's ultraright does not leave such insults unpunished. A stream of death threats poured into Genshu's studio. A few days ago the leader of the "Soul of the Pine" broke in and smashed the pyramids and then surrendered to police. His and some 850 other such groups with 120,000 members are stepping up activities reminiscent of the ultraright of the 1930s that helped stoke the fires of war.

The latest national police agency report recorded the highest number of criminal incidents involving the rightwing in any year since the war.

"I think there's a strong

chance I might be assassinated," says Genshu. Physical violence by rightwing extremists in Japan is frequent occurrence, and the police are sometimes accused of treating them too indulgently. Genshu's requests for a degree of protection have been brushed aside.

A lesser woman, not to speak of a man, would never have ventured a protest so fraught with risk. Genshu, as every Japanese knows, is no ordinary dancer. If the premier element was shocked by her avant-garde stage performances and love affairs, her notoriety was complete when in 1980 she stabbed the leader of Japan's most renowned school of dance in the neck. For this she served eight months in prison.

The wound was superficial, but what Genshu intended was a symbolic protest against the Emperor, a system in which a few families dominate traditional arts like Ikebana (flower arrangement), tea ceremony, and dance.

Genshu's name became synonymous with the fight against the dynasties of masters who have turned the arts into big business, amassing fortunes by selling diplomas to the dozens of (male) masses in their schools, and influence that causes cabinet ministers to court them.

Genshu's assault marked her out as an enemy of the establishment, and for the same reason probably height-

ened her popularity among ordinary people. Her spell in prison gave her time to develop her thoughts about the parallels between the hereditary clans of the traditional arts masters and the imperial family.

In fact, the entire ruling classes derives its legitimacy from the emperor system, which may explain why, in the words of the National Christian Council of Japan, "there is a powerful thrust to recognise his (the emperor's) godship again and to make him the sovereign head of the state."

Shortly before the emperor's 84th birthday at the end of April, Genshu distributed her leaflets until police impounded them and summoned her to answer charges of pamphleteering.

This incident with the police attracted publicity, but the newspapers could not carry the unvarnished message she wants to put across. "In this the 60th year of the imperial reign, the Prime Minister is mobilising the mass media in an ambitious campaign to restore Japanese nationalism with the emperor as its core again."

Australia wanted him de-throned and put on trial, as did the Russians. But General Douglas MacArthur prevailed and the Americans decided the emperor was the historian David Bergamini, "to use the emperor and to whitewash him."

Gandhi pleases the Russians and leaves with 1 bn roubles

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, closed his Russian visit yesterday with a 1,000 million rouble credit agreement from the Kremlin.

Mr Gandhi delighted his Soviet hosts by giving broad support to their opposition to the US Star Wars project and by publicly stating in Moscow that Mr Gandhi was taking his nonaligned role rather more even-handedly than his mother.

At a press conference in Moscow yesterday, Soviet officials were visibly enraptured as Mr Gandhi said: "India is very much on the way to socialism," and repeated his commitment to the state sector as the core of India's economic development.

There has been considerable nervousness in Moscow before his arrival that the old special

relationship between Moscow and Delhi might not have survived the assassination of Mrs Gandhi. Mr Gandhi's assiduous stoking of Soviet fears has been a considerable success, but from the cautious and emollient tones in which he couched his occasional criticism of Western policy thoughtful diplomatic observers in Moscow yesterday gathered that Mr Gandhi was taking his nonaligned role rather more even-handedly than his mother.

At his press conference in Moscow, he stressed that the US was India's leading trading partner, and that he hoped to build "a personal relationship" with President Reagan on his forthcoming trip to Washington.

Questioned on the Indo-Soviet military relationship, Mr Gandhi said yesterday that his defence minister had enjoyed "a very fruitful exchange," and added that "our cooperation in that field is improving substantially."

But the main thrust of his visit, and the agreement which had been carefully prepared in advance for him to sign, reflected the trading relationship to which Moscow attaches such importance. The agreement signed this week, as well as the 1,000 million rouble credit deal, provide for official coordination of the two countries' next national plans up to 2000.

Mr Gandhi's talks with Mr Gorbachev ranged widely around world affairs, from Sri Lanka to Nicaragua.

He made it plain that India maintained its reservations over the Soviet war in Afghanistan, stressing India's objection to any country's intervention in the affairs of another.

Over 20 Sikhs now in custody after bombing conspiracy

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

The police claimed further successes yesterday in their hunt for the Sikh bombers who killed 45 civilians in Delhi, and 40 more in neighbouring north Indian states, two weeks ago.

Another two Sikhs alleged to be key conspirators were remanded in custody by the chief metropolitan magistrate, Mr Subhash Wason on sedition charges. A third was arrested later, bringing the total under arrest to 21.

The prosecuting counsel, R. K. Khanna, said that one of the pair charged yesterday, Surjeet Singh, was an expert bomb-maker, who had prepared the booby-trapped transistor radios with parts supplied by Mohinder Singh Oberoi, one of the first to be arrested, and another man who was still at large.

Counsel for the other Sikh charged yesterday, Indarpal Singh Bhatia, told the court that his client had a weak heart. The magistrate replied that medical aid was available in police custody if he needed it.

Meanwhile, in Amritsar the relatively moderate block of Sikh politicians loyal to Mr Harbansingh Longowal launched a counter-attack against the extremists who have taken over the Akali Dal party. A meeting of 15 district and state party leaders rejected Mr Longowal's resignation as president and directed him to resume his duties.

The Akalis similarly rejected the resignations of two Longowal allies, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, the leader of the legislative party and former chief minister of Punjab, and Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra,

the president of the SPGC committee, which controls the Golden Temple and other shrines.

With only one dissenting voice, the 15 local leaders also repudiated the nine-member ad hoc committee set up by Baba Joginder Singh, the 85-year-old father and heir of the famous preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, to run Akali affairs and unite the party.

The moderates dispatched a deputation to report their decisions to Mr Longowal, who has withdrawn to his native village, where a party convention is to be summoned next Sunday, followed by a leadership session in Chandigarh, the state capital, next Thursday.

The question remains whether Mr Longowal and his associates can recapture the authority they have steadily forfeited over the past year.

THE DAY IN POLITICS

BUS BREAK-UP

Think small say MPs

By Alan Travis CONSERVATIVE backbenchers yesterday passed transport ministers to break up the National Bus Company into at least three separate companies when it is sold off later this year.

Mr Matthew Parris (C, Derbyshire W) tabled an amendment to the Transport Bill on its last day in the Commons demanding that not more than 49 per cent of the NBC be transferred to any one party.

Mr David Mitchell, the Transport Minister, told the Commons that the NBC has already appointed a merchant bank to discuss with the Department of Transport the options for privatisation but discussions had not yet reached the stage where any conclusions could be brought forward.

Mr Parris said he wanted to see a large number of small companies rather than a small number of large companies. If the NBC was privatised as one or two large monopolies the threat to other bus undertakings would be so great that it would defeat the central object of the Transport Bill to introduce competition into the bus industry.

Mr Malcolm Bruce (Lib, Gordon) argued that transport ministers should take account of local circumstances when deciding on the size of units into which NBC was going to be broken up. The main principal should be that there would be equal competition between the newly-privatised companies and the small transport operators who run bus services in certain parts of the country.

Mr Mitchell said that the bill already included clauses which would ensure fair competition, and although final decisions were to be taken on the size of the units into which the NBC would be broken up, he would retain that objective in mind when the decision was taken.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said it was not good enough for the Commons to trust Mr Mitchell's word that he would do what was best. Mr Parris accepted the ministers' assurances and withdrew his amendment.

Kinnock urged to live more dangerously



Mr Kinnock—alarmed

By Martin Linton

THE Labour leader Mr Neil Kinnock should be prepared to live more dangerously and to be more controversial in arguing for the radical alternative which the party's policies do represent, he says.

He cites the example of Mr Michael Meacher's proposal to replace mortgage tax relief with a unified housing allowance. Granted that the presentation was bungled and that the leadership was placed in a difficult position by lack of prior consultation, the Shadow Cabinet should not have been so quick to distance itself from fresh thinking like that, he says.

But an alarming lack of substance is becoming apparent because the leadership has not really argued for clear socialist values and ideas, says Mr Hain, who is vice-chairman of the influential leftwing pressure group, Labour Co-ordinating Committee.

"Without being reckless, the leadership should be prepared to live more danger-

ously, to be more controversial, imaginative, innovative and initiating in arguing for the radical alternative which the party's policies do represent," he says.

He puts forward three policy issues on which, he says, the Labour left is in particular need of making some hard choices. On incomes, there must be a coherent policy and unless the left sets the agenda for debate on a total approach to income, inequalities and benefits Labour will end up sliding down the same sorry path which led to defeat in 1970 and again in 1979.

On public ownership, the left should ask itself some hard questions about the cost of rationalising entire industries, such as British Telecom, against the cost of repatriating control of BT, which would need only 5 per cent of the shares.

On defence Labour's left wing should concentrate on working out a clear strategy for Labour's role in Nato — such as building a majority for no first strike rather than engaging in the fruitless exercise of trying to overturn the party's policy to remain in Nato.

Mr Hain, who has consistently argued that the Labour left should offer Mr Kinnock more support, warns that it would be a great mistake for the left to set its aims too high. To expect five million new jobs to be created in the first term of a Kinnock Government "would either mean a return to self-delusion or cynically setting the leadership up for an inevitable betrayal," he says.

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Welsh SDP and Liberals set the pace with scheme for Alliance conference

By Paul Hoyland

Social Democrats and Liberals in Wales are setting the pace for the Alliance with plans for a joint policy conference at Cardiff in November.

Dr David Owen, the SDP's leader, showed no enthusiasm for the proposed conference when he addressed the Welsh assembly at Tenby in March. But the local SDP officials now expect that he and the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, will attend.

Dr Owen was not pleased when the Welsh Alliance pioneered an agreement last year for joint selection of parliamentary candidates. He believed it implied an amalgamation of the two parties.

Although his opposition to a joint national conference is unlikely to be swayed by the Welsh initiative, Dr Owen would at least be well placed to handle developments from the Cardiff platform. After some sharp exchanges at Tenby party officials in Wales seem anxious to mend broken fences with their leader.

Mr Gwynor Jones, the executive chairman of the Alliance Committee for Wales, who has been particularly critical of Dr Owen's style of leadership, said: "This conference will be an historic occasion. It emphasises the desire of the two parties in Wales to work very closely together. I hope it will be the forerunner of a British conference one day. The latest opinion polls showed there was

far more support for the Alliance than for the two parties separately. We all must bear that in mind in developing organisational and in policy changes in the run-up to the general election."

He denied that the conference was a step towards an amalgamation: "It is a step towards common sense: people on the doorstep are not as concerned about Liberal or SDP as the concept of the Alliance. It is that which appeals to them."

Mr Jones, the former SDP chairman for Wales, emphasised that the joint selection agreement in the principle meant that there was no hanging about which party should fight the forthcoming

PM urged to help pit communities

MINERS' JOBS

By Colin Brown

THE former Labour Cabinet Minister, Mr Roy Mason, last night appealed to the Prime Minister to provide more government money for his Barnsley constituency to create new

enterprises to compensate for job losses in the mining industry.

Mr Mason also urged Mrs Thatcher, in a letter, to press the chairman of the NCB, Mr Ian MacGregor, to enlarge the National Coal Board Enterprise Ltd fund rapidly to inject more investment into the area.

"We are not Luddites and it

would be foolish to challenge change, but you really must understand that the Coal Board is causing a shake-out of labour faster and on a greater scale than anyone anticipated," said Mr Mason. "It is ruthlessly fast and does not give any co-existence community and historical authority the slightest chance of neutralising the vast job losses."

Mr Mason: "Not Luddites"

US switch stand on star wars—Healey

FOREIGN POLICY

By Alan Travis

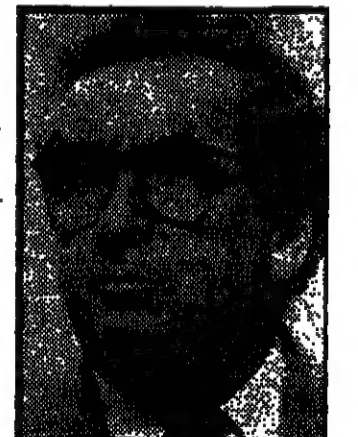
THE Shadow Foreign Secretary, Mr Denis Healey, claimed yesterday that the Reagan Administration had changed its position and would not now negotiate about the deployment of the Strategic Defence Initiative in research proves it feasible.

Mr Healey, during Commons foreign affairs questions, said that Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, has recently repeated statements to this effect. "It is a clear breach of the understanding between Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan reached in December," he added.

He said Washington had made it clear that they were monitoring Soviet research in the field and had published a list of US experiments they intended to undertake as part of the so-called Star Wars project. "Would it not be sensible to kill off the whole thing at birth by a quick ban on all space-related experiments?" he asked.

He asked Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

Sir Geoffrey accused Mr Healey of over-simplifying the issue. Both sides regard such a system of monitoring of research as unattainable in practice. The US has repeatedly stated that SDI deployment must be a matter for negotiation and this was confirmed not only at the Camp David meeting in December



Mr Healey: "Clear breach"

but in recent meetings as well."

Earlier, Sir Geoffrey told Mr John Evans (Lab, St Helens N) that the SDI proposals were designed not to achieve superiority over the USSR but to achieve balance. He said the Russians had deployed the only active anti-ballistic system in the world and had undertaken research in this field for a long time.

MPs from all parties yesterday signed a Commons early day motion calling on the British Government to negotiate with the USSR and the United States for a moratorium on nuclear testing as a first step towards the achievement of a comprehensive test ban treaty. The move mirrors the efforts of Senator Kennedy and others in the US Congress to achieve a moratorium on US testing by cutting off funding for it, subject to a halt by the USSR.

£2 m local action plan

DRUGS

By our Political Staff

The Government yesterday announced a £2 million scheme to help to stimulate local action against drug misuse.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, said in a Commons written answer that the money will be made available in the coming year to enable the majority of local education authorities to appoint a full-time member of staff to stimulate and co-ordinate action against drug misuse.

The purpose of the scheme is to promote advice and support for schools, colleges, youth service workers and other staff

and arrange suitable training for them in order to take action against drug misuse. A similar amount of money is expected to be made available in 1987/88 for the project.

The cash is part of £40 million education support grants announced for the coming financial year and will be used to provide training for school governors, helping parents with children under the age of five who have special educational needs, and strengthening college/employer links.

The Department of Education is in the process of preparing a new booklet on drug misuse for teachers and youth workers which is to be issued before the end of the summer term this year.

HOW THE MONTEGO BECAME THE CAR OF THE YEAR IN JUST NINE MONTHS. TWICE.

CHOSEN BY 'WHAT CAR?' AS 'BEST FAMILY SALOON, AHEAD OF 26 RIVALS:

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The magazine singled out the style, the luxury level of trim, the equipment, the good performance and the economy for special mention.

It also called the Montego "the spiciest family saloon on the market."

Add their reminder that "like all Austins, the Montego is cheap to service and little bother to maintain" and you have a family saloon that in the nine short months after its introduction had stolen a march over much publicised vehicles like the Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6GL, the Ford Orion 1.6i Ghia, the Talbot Solara 1.6LS, the VW Santana, CX and twenty two others.

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Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6GL; Mitsubishi Space Wagon and the Citroen CX 25 IE FAM among those left with their tail-gates trailing.

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Whichever model suits your needs (from £5,685 to £10,301) it would appear that respected motoring journalists are of one voice in acclaiming the winning ways of the Montego.

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Cars shown - Montego 1.6HL Saloon and 1.6L Estate. Prices range from 1.3 Saloon at £5,685 to the MG Montego Turbo Saloon at £10,301. *Manufacturer's data. DOT Figures: Montego 1.3 (5 speed) saloon simulated urban cycle 56.5mpg/7.8L per 100km. Constant 56mpg 58.5mpg/4.8L per 100km. Constant 75mpg 41.5mpg/5.8L per 100km. Montego 1.6HL Saloon and Montego 1.6L Estate simulated urban cycle 51.5mpg/8.0L per 100km. Constant 56mpg 55.3mpg/5.3L per 100km. Constant 75mpg 38.8mpg/7.8L per 100km. Prices correct at time of going to press, excluding number plates and delivery. NATIONWIDE CAR RENTAL RESERVATIONS THROUGH BRITISH CAR RENTALS, TEL: 0905 77223. AUSTIN ROVER TAX-FREE SALES INFORMATION - TEL: 021-475 200 EXT. 220.

Robin Denselow on the latest rock releases

Blast off...

AFTER the success of Los Lobos, the next Los Angeles "roots-rickets" to succeed must surely be the outfit who first helped them to establish an audience outside the Spanish-speaking part of town. The Blasters' *Hard Line* (Slash/London) is one of the best American albums of the year, and should appeal to all Lobos enthusiasts for its varied, gutsy blend of all-American styles, from rolling R & B and rock to country and gospel, with even an accordion dance song featuring David Hidalgo thrown in.

The Blasters' approach is not based on nostalgia, or any return to the West Coast country-rock styles of the Seventies, but rather a revival of straightforward guitar-band rock mixed in with an encouraging variety of influences. So they start off with a ringing, rolling, and stomping song, *Trouble*. Bound before moving on to country ballads, finger-clicking early rock, or a slick blend of white rock and close-harmony gospel on *Samson and Delilah*. In with all this they mix a couple of songs reminiscent of John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater. *Dark Night*, with its raw, sparse riffs, and *Common Man*, a rousing attack on politicians, are two more songs that promise to sound even better played live.

USA For Africa: We Are The World (CBS): The American music establishment's version of the Band Aid African charity concept has spawned not just a hit single and a hit video about its making, but a full, and very patchy album. It starts, of course, with the song that's played non-stop on American radio, a soft-centred Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie composition that's performed by everyone from Dylan and Springsteen to Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, Paul Simon, and its composers. It's all in a good cause, but has the radiant sincerity of a soft-drinks commercial. Still, it's intriguing trying to work out which super-star is singing which line (no prizes for Dylan, who sounds as if he's taking himself off).

This song apart, the album contains one real classic that almost alone makes it worth buying. Springsteen's live version of *Johnny 99*. Trapped in a spine-chilling epic, an anthem about escaping from women's clutches that makes a brave choice for a man who has just got married. El where, there's a strong sense of a man's dilemma, a mildly disappointing one from the now psychedelic Prince, and a tedious Canadian attempt at the Band Aid idea.



Mark Knopfler

Dire Straits: Brothers In Arms (Phonogram)

Another guaranteed world-wide best-seller, this is a classy, varied, melodic, but still slightly disappointing set, in which Mark Knopfler shows off his effortless expertise but never manages to sound wildly exciting. After exploring everything from the epic to gentle ballads with the last set of Dire Straits songs, three years ago, and then moving on to write excellent film music, maybe he's simply not sure what direction he should now take. What he has done is move away from his distinctive, stuttering and busy guitar work to simple, effortlessly tuneful songs that often sound so relaxed as to almost be throw-aways.

Willie And The Poor Boys (Ripple/Decca): Another charity record, this time in aid of the Ronnie Lane ARMS Multiple Sclerosis appeal, in which Bill Wyman and a set of famous and not-so-famous friends hush cheerfully through a set of good-time R & B, boogie and rock favourites. Charlie Watts plays drums.

Eurythmics: Be Yourself Tonight (RCA)

Stevie Wonder re-appears again on the surprising new album from Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, in which they shift away from their exquisite, best-selling brand of electro-pop for an album of soul and rock. It's a brave move, especially as they have enlisted the help of everyone from Wonder and Aretha Franklin, Elvis Costello and members of Tom Petty's band, but if this set is lacking on charming Eurythmics melodies, it's certainly not lacking in exuberant self-confidence.

PETER Hall's current operatic manner comes down to bland, decorative naturalism laced with a phillistine fear of significance. Should one want more than a bourgeois Carman at Glyndebourne, its visual images as stolid and turgid as the Victorian narrative paintings of childhood jigsaw puzzles? I do not expect Glyndebourne to risk alienating its patrons the way Lucien Pintilie's Welsh Carmen blithely (and thrillingly) offended. But what about energy and imagination?

Here we have a musically authentic Carman, almost too tastefully, sensitively and pompously played by Bernard Haitink and the LPO. It is a suitably intimate theatre one hears more of Bizet's miraculous scoring than ever, with tempi that usually indulge the musical invention at the expense of the drama — as in the ravishing *Jose/Maria* first act dialogue. But the core of the work, the fatal gypsy infatuation, is treated with simple-minded, uninquiring nonchalance.

No child of fate, Maria Ewing's Carman meets Jose's impossible stubbornness with suburban petulance. If this is an interpretation it is too slight to contemplate. Not the least of Miss Ewing's problems is her decision to reduce the singing of the role to a conversational level, apart from a few emphatic climaxes. It is a mistake to merge spoken dialogue thus into the music, because taking through the part blunts the prime musical tool of interpretation.

Like Agnes Baltsa at Covent Garden, Ewing manipulates the break into chest register for effect, but the range of colour in the normal voice seemed inadequate for the great aria about fate (the magnetic pole of the entire work) and none of the big numbers was vocally thrilling. I felt no contrast between Carman's mendacious ambivalence and the inescapable truth of fate. When Ewing tells Pastia to

Tom Sutcliffe reviews Sir Peter Hall's Carmen at Glyndebourne

The bourgeois Bizet



A conversational Carmen: Maria Ewing at Glyndebourne. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

bring sweets and sherry, its as if she's instructing the suitor.

Clad in trousers and sombrero in the smugglers' camp Ewing looks marvellous, though perhaps the Vogue image is inapt. The denouement is inevitably exciting,

with Ewing steady as a matorador, and her José wheeling about her like an enraged bull and ultimately driving her back from the bull-ring door.

Barry McAuley as José matches Ewing in seeming no larger than life, though

he achieves a kind of epic vocal assurance in the end. Both make something of their French, but this largely English-speaking cast is generally hard to follow, especially in the voices-over music melodrama.

The most pleasing singing

by far came from Marie McLaughlin as a very gutsy Micaela. David Holloway seemed seriously miscast as Escamillo, never plumb the bottom notes of the Toreador's song (which, however, is given the proper dramatic context of a toast to

him) because he couldn't watch. When man and camera swung round there was a water-pipe, two terrified birds were taking off and a piece of wood was going straight up like gunfire. It was, as everyone has said, a carbon copy of Donald Campbell's accident, a 360 degree cartwheel at 300m.p.h. Her father's body was never recovered, though his Teddy bear mascot surfaced. She took the same bear on her own record attempt. "Poor little son. He says 'That's twice now'."

In spite of the race language she is a beautiful little lass. Small, neat, rather posh, very fair. Physically not much like her father, but driven "To prove I am made of the same stuff."

"I'm never ever going to get married again. It's not necessary," she said. I can think of one good reason. It would change her name.

My reader suggests that the peagreen perigee in Behind the Lines (BBC2), which stands in such daily danger of being eaten by Royal Marines, should be called *Worshipful*. I don't understand this at all. Possibly it is a pun.

A peak full of poets

Nancy Banks-Smith on last night's television

YOU DO not altogether expect when sitting on top of a mountain thinking noble thoughts to be run over by a train. Particularly a train travelling backwards so you don't know if it's coming or if it's been.

This stubby little train, puffing a bit and giving strange little high-pitched squeals, came briskly up Snowden bottom first, bearing Philip Madoc and Sian Phillips and a selection of warm clothing. Dissected, they spoke warmly and at some length about mountains while the wind banged the country like a carpet and the air thickened behind them. It seemed possible they would be caught up in a cloud and carried to heaven, still speaking highly of Wales as they went. And why not, indeed?

Wales: Landscape and Legend (C4), originally made for the Welsh Fourth Channel and kindly translated, where necessary, for our benefit, is a truly beautiful series. It is transmitted at 10pm which is the equivalent of putting a bucket over its head. However, it does mean you can just get home, sink down with

a sigh and let it lap softly round your socks most refreshing.

Originally it was the Welsh language in the Welsh landscape. The first programme was set among mountains. The air was in two minds whether to be water and the mountains whether to be clouds. The land lay at all angles which didn't seem to worry the sheep, unusual looking animals with high cheek bones, long legs and astonishingly elegant tails. You remember, "Leave them alone and they'll come home/Bringing their tails behind them." Has it crossed your minds that most sheep have no tails? They do in Wales. There was a little music at the hills were ringing. And poetry.

"Now poetry is what Milton saw when he went blind. I am rather fond of it and when I hear it tend to close my eyes. Most people are not fond of it but also, for their own good reasons, close their eyes. In television terms this is, you appreciate, a difficulty. Nobody seems to have mentioned to the Welsh that you can't do poetry on television just as no one has mentioned

to the bumble bee that aerodynamically it is incapable of flight so they both manage very well.

The Welsh poetry lost almost everything in translation but there was always the scenery waving over the speaker's shoulder and the sheep calling for their mothers, Ma, Ma. One poem, Bill Farmer, by R. S. Thomas, was always written in English and beautifully spoken by Philip Madoc. It took your breath away: "I am a farmer stripped of love and thought and grace by the land's harshness. But what I am saying over the field's desolate acres rough with dew is 'Listen, listen: I am a man like you'."

And I was forcibly reminded that some poems must be spoken because, well, listen, listen. When he has gone out from my mother's kitchen and my comb were on the table under the lamp. For heavens sake, not combs. Combs. Things you stick in your hair.

When Glyn Campbell's boat began to loop the loop in QED (BBC1) the camera was turned on tele-trailer. And his face was turned

THEATRE UPSTAIRS

Michael Billington

Susan's Breasts

I HALF expected Jonathan Gens's new play *Susan's Breasts* at the Theatre Upstairs to be some outrageous piece of male chauvinism. In fact, the title is scarcely more offensive than Jake's Thing; and the play itself (like the same author's *Naked Robots*) offers a sardonic, if wildly unfocused look at the bourgeois Bohemians of modern London torn between the desire to be desperately hip and to make their way up the career ladder.

Admittedly the play raises the question as to whether motherhood may not be as fulfilling for a woman as an abortive acting career; but it merely to the issue is an indictable offender, then we have reached a pretty sad state of intolerance.

The heroine Susan, is a kindly bemused soul who cohabits with a failed writer. Paul waits on tables in a trendy restaurant and lives in hope of tele-series or an anorexic role in an up and coming movie. Convinced she is a failed actress, she suddenly finds herself impregnated by a passionately romantic and possessive rock singer. Her breasts swell, motherhood beckons but Susan finally puts the tenuous prospect of a movie role before the reality of child bearing.

It would be a better play (in the sense that there would be a real moral dilemma) if Susan were a thriving actress rather than someone valuing the reality of child bearing.

It would be a better play (in the sense that there would be a real moral dilemma) if Susan were a thriving actress rather than someone valuing the reality of child bearing.

His heroine, instinctively independent but dimly aware of the sacrifices that may involve, is a recognisable modern woman. But even better-sketches are the maimed butterflies that surround her: the BEI-financed movie maker mounting a low-budget *Peasants Revolt* the suburban refugee who smokes smack out of a desire to keep up the aging restaurateur who hangs around with the crowd in the hope that their youth may rub off on him.

Doug Lucie dealt with a similar face-saving gang in hard feelings, the key difference is that his play has a real moral crisis that exposed their stylish nastiness.

Mr Gens has yet to crack the problem (though he came close in *The Paranormalist*) of combining a dynamic plot with his gift for social observation. What he has done, stumblingly, is to suggest that there is a new romanticism abroad and that feminist independence creates personal dilemmas as well as solving them. He hasn't altogether succeeded but he shouldn't be castigated for the attempt.

Mike Radwell's production played on an indoor-outdoor set that suggested an avant-garde Stratford As You Like It and accompanied by sweet Shakespearean music, catches the play's odd mixture of satire and yearning, and there are street scenes, performances from Caroline Goodall as the confusedly ambitious Susan, Garry Cooper as the creative writer who ends up a copy writer and Steven Rinkus as the flummoxed who would sell his soul for a tulip crane. Mr Gens hasn't yet found a structure to match his perceptions; but he does intriguingly suggest that the elixir of youth has somehow been poisoned at source.

SADLER'S WELLS

Mary Clarke

Merce Cunningham

THE Sadler's Wells season by the Merce Cunningham company began its final week with yet two more works new to London and with absolutely no diminution in the thrilling quality of performance and creativity of the company.

Trails, made in 1982, is danced to John Cage's *Instances of Silence* in Mark Lancaster's clear-coloured costumes and is an ideal opening piece. It states most beautifully the technical skill of the dancers and Cunningham's careful concern to write for them as individuals, as company members, and simply as people who dance together finding stimulus and satisfaction in a shared experience of movement.

Native Green is new this year and differs quite a lot



Caroline Goodall at the Royal Court

from the other dances in the repertoire. The composer is John King and his Giles in Sights provides a powerful accompaniment (and delights the many young musicians in the audience). The design is by William Anastasi and Dove Bradshaw, who were appointed artistic advisers for the company last year, and, as in *Phrases* which completes this programme, they contribute elaborations upon the basic coloured backdrop and elegant practice dancewear which are characteristic of many present-day Cunningham compositions.

The backdrop here is motley with brown and the costumes are similarly mortified while the women wear full, calf-length skirts over their tights. Perhaps it is partly the luscious fabric of these skirts, when the girls sink into a deep pile in second while tracing circles in the air with their arms, which gives part of the work a resemblance to Eastern dance.

Perhaps, too, it is the title which reminds us that this dance has its roots in traditional and folk elements even when they are raised, as here, to the most sophisticated expression. More emphasis is given than is usual with Cunningham (except in his own incomparable gyrations) to complex arm and hand movements. The dance is for three men and three women and at the end they raise a curious decorated pole which they bend into a mystic arch—another suggestion of ritual.

I've named no dancers this

search because it's impossible to detach individuals from the corporate whole. All are magnificent, and all share the nightly ovations they are being given to Cunningham himself; as is proper and as he would wish.

ALMEIDA/ICA

Nicholas de Jongh

Woyzeck/Cambodia

BUCHNER'S *Woyzeck* has never lost the capacity to amaze. Although written 150 years ago, the play has between four nineteenth century drama and modern theatre. Its fragmented scenes, its expressionistic sense of Woyzeck's life as some ineluctable nightmare has encouraged modern directors to subject the piece to radical transformations. And Les Walter's production, originally presented by the Haymarket studio company, follows in the footsteps of Charles Marowitz and Robert Walker by realigning the play.

He has chosen to set it in a single location, some romantic forest where the tree trunks and menacingly tilted and sport no leaves, and framed by an arc of canvas whose colours change from purple to bloodstained red. Presumably the idea is to stress that the forest where Woyzeck first has his hallucinated vision of cosmic disaster and where he stabs his faithless Marie to death, constitutes the true limits of his world.

It also serves to suggest that his mind never truly leaves the place. And Bernard Strohmer's anti-hero begins the play on such a pitch of terrified foreboding that you feel there can be no change or development. In his cunning, acute performance you see Woyzeck reach a kind of glazed calm and resolve as he plunges the knife in and sees the girl die slowly.

But if this much has psychological force and conviction, the drift of Walter's production is otherwise naive and perverse. The Doctor and the Captain who treat Woyzeck with lofty, ignorant patronage are here played as caricatures of cruel authority, while the text suggests otherwise. Linda Bassett, perversely cast as the Doctor and

Frank Baker as the Captain are little short of ridiculous in their over-emphasis.

The production, set more in the present than the distant past, is otherwise inhibited by a bland playfulness which shows up in the scenes of the circus animals and the interpolated conclusion. Here the doctor, like some fantasy of Robbin Kinnison, is seen conducting the autopsies for both Woyzeck and Marie. The text is presumably culled from the original account of the true life Woyzeck's post-mortem and constitutes a rather obvious form of theatrical underlining.

Spalding Gray is an American actor who treats his life as a work of art. Swimming to Cambodia is the latest incident in a career of such fantastic self-absorption that Narcissus himself would blush at such self interest.

Gray subjects his own ego to much examination and a little contempt as he explains how he came to be chosen to play in *John's the Killing Fields*, all in the course of some eighty five minutes. By the end I wanted to know a lot less about him.

RONNIE SCOTT'S

John Fordham

James Moody

THAT combination of elegant flute playing, modernist saxophone style, grafted on to the traditions of Lester Young and surreal gobbledygook monologues has made James Moody a perennially popular visitor. Moody made his name with *Diszy Gillespie* in two stints in the Forties and Sixties — but now tours as the leader of small groups performing a lively brew of pop tunes and high-class popular themes.

In his opening performance at Ronnie Scott's on Monday, Moody appeared with a local trio consisting of John Critchenson (piano), Ron Mathewson (bass) and Spike Wells (drums). Always regarded as one of the best of a limited and unevenly talented coterie of jazz flautists he proved the point with a graceful and sweet toned rendition of *Waves*, in which he managed to impart to an essentially ethereal theme, a sinewy quality it rarely possesses.

Moody the performer swept to the fore in a tenor

Hall). There was decent singing from Elizabeth Collier and Jean Rigby as Frasquita and Mercedes, and Gordon Sandison, Petros Evangelidis, Malcolm Walker and Xavier Degras, performed ably as smugglers and officers.

The stage at Glyndebourne has never seemed larger, filled with up to 50 people at a time and managing to satisfy the conventional expectations of John Carmichael's production. With a stupor verisimilitude, the production is a masterpiece of stagecraft. The chorus sing with youthful ardour, and the production is a masterpiece of stagecraft. The chorus sing with youthful ardour, and the production is a masterpiece of stagecraft.

This depressing, and somewhat tedious, production is a masterpiece of stagecraft. The chorus sing with youthful ardour, and the production is a masterpiece of stagecraft. The chorus sing with youthful ardour, and the production is a masterpiece of stagecraft.

But the depths in *Carmen* are not apparent. When Nicky's said the work put over its moving, tragic mission by avoiding "the lie of the grand style," he was not expecting grandeur to be replaced by petty bourgeois, pretty, operatic conventionalism. In today's terms, well-dressed naturalism is the lie to be avoided.

Hall used to deplore "the comfort of convention," and he once told me, "For me there's no point in going to the theatre just to be entertained." But if he has now decided that opera is best served by unadventurous and unchallenging naturalism, it looks very much as though he's betrayed his old beliefs and gone over to the philistines.

Mick Brown sees Hank Wangford take to the Theatre Royal stage in Chaps

Clown country

IT WOULD be inappropriate to describe Chaps, featuring Hank Wangford, professional kynaeologist and some time country music parodist, as a play or even a musical. Both suggest some sort of plot or narrative which is, however, absent from this production: a series of songs loosely connected by flights of absurdity, fantasy on cowboy manners and conventions.

Chaps is certainly an advertisement for an end-of-the-world, post-apocalyptic Kentucky, complete with oil-slicked landscape, a pale Rogers lookalike, and a cowboy country music band fronted by the irrepressible Wangford — a lugubrious heavy-eyed man in an ill-fitting, Hank Williams suit — the man who turns real pain into champagne and so on. The puns are as high as an elephant's thigh — or the region thereabouts.

Country music and country manners are hard to parody; the real thing is often a parody in itself. But Wangford pushes it one step further towards the borders of surrealism, leaving no doubt of Nashville or the cinema returned, evoking a world where homespun values are turned to the cause of insanity, opportunity — "You can't put a price on it, it's worth a thing" — veiled in sincerity of the most transparently mawkish kind.

As a production this has all the essence of an end-of-the-world, post-apocalyptic Western, with even the inevitable audience participation parodied by an ingenuous youth being initiated into the ways of the world, the dying, lying bird of uncertainty. The most constant factor is Wangford's music. He appears to be simultaneously extending the targets of parody — gospel and hippie — but within range, and polishing up the proficiency of the group. Even without the absurdist thames the Wangford band would make a creditable turn in any country hall with Bobby Valentino's quicksilver fiddle, playing and rich, baritone, half way between Michael Holliday and Lefty Frizzelle — an attraction in itself.

Spectacle, wonder, hilarity. Chaps has none of these things, but one leaves with an idiotic smile, planted firmly on the face.

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Len McKern in *The Chain* (left); Sheila McLaughlin in *Committed* (above); Kelly McGillis, Lukas Haas, and Harrison Ford in *Witness*



Tim Palleine reviews Marisa Silver's first feature, *Old Enough*, Peter Weir's first film in America, *Witness*, and the rest of the week's new releases

Sweet birds of youth take flight

IN THE CINEMA, as elsewhere, the theme of growing up, of negotiating a rite of passage between childhood and an adult awareness of the world, is well-served. But a film as winning as *Old Enough* (Academy, PG) a first feature by writer-director Marisa Silver, offers a reassuring reminder that given a touch of the poet, the old tunes can still sound the best. The locale is New York during a long summer holiday, the central figure Lonnie, the daughter — aged, in her own words, almost eleven and three quarters — of a well-off professional couple. She makes the chance acquaintance of Karen, a slightly older girl from a different — Roman Catholic, working-class — background who affects to be more worldly wise yet in her own way is the more vulnerable. The relationship that

develops between them, at once defensive and free from constraint, and complicated by the presence of Karen's nervous older brother, draws us into an adolescent borderland. Fantasy remains a key element; Lonnie's stratagem to skip a dreary summer camp are invested with every truant's melodramatic glee, and the girls weave a spell of exotism around a flamboyant neighbour, though when they trail her to a supposed assignation, she mundanely proves to be only on her way to work. In such details as Karen's crash course in Catholic dogma for the agnostically raised Lonnie, the film is often extremely funny. It is touching too, but in not shirking the callousness of youth, it avoids fake sentiment. A subject such as this depends

crucially on performance, and Silver has won from Sarah Boyd (Lonnie) and Rainbow Harvest (Karen) playing of marvellously unforced appeal. The effect lies in the writing, too, and in particular the scenes between Lonnie and her pretty, preoccupied mother (Fran Brill) evoke the truth between the lines of speech and gesture, as well as touching on the annoying tendency of parents to assume that what their offspring enjoyed last year they will necessarily want to do this.

The fashioning of a dramatic climax may be a little uneasy; and while Michael Ballhaus's cinematography is often handsome, its burlesque quality brings a touch of academicism to the film. One can't help craving for black-and-white, with its more ready sense of spontaneity. All the same, this is a movie to cherish: at its best it pulls off the trick of making the camera seem to disappear and granting the viewer a privileged look through a window on that most elusive of properties, everyday life.

Where *Old Enough* is indigenously a New York movie, *Witness* (Plaza, etc. 15), belongs to Hollywood's immigrant tradition. This is the first work in America of the distinguished Australian director Peter Weir and a film in which response to unusual surroundings is central to its effect. The milieu is self-consciously distinctive, an Amish farming community in Pennsylvania, though the framework of the story belongs to the crime thriller. Harrison Ford is a policeman investigating a murder to which a small Amish boy has been a

witness during a visit to Philadelphia. But the killing proved to be linked to venality in high places, and cop as well as child become marked for termination with prejudice, with the result that Ford goes to earth at the Amish farm. The two parts of the narrative do not really sell. The detective, predictably vulnerable beneath his hard-bitten exterior, is a figure too remote for us to care how he reacts to the rustic, non-violent life; and the long central passage detailing his unaccompanied affair with the boy's widowed mother (Kelly McGillis) strays toward the sentimental and at times the frankly touristic. The concluding Western-like sequences, when a trio of big-city gunmen close in on the isolated family, are pointedly staged and exciting. But the inconclusive

ending, once the shoot-out is over, perhaps testifies to the preceding lack of substance. Apart from bereavement and divorce, moving home is the most traumatic experience the average person undergoes, according to a character in *The Chain* (Odeon Haymarket, PG) and it is easy to believe him. The subject has a built-in appeal to the masochist in most of us. In addition, the circular form of Jack Gold's amusing film, scripted by Jack Rosenblum, draws you in to one mini-drama after another as the vendors' and purchasers' quadrille is danced with many a false step in a backdrop of mobile arc from Hackney to Hammersmith to Molland Park. The film is strongly played by a company that includes both familiar faces and newcomers; among the latter there is a performance of both

charm and attack from Rita Wolf. Now and again, the emphasis may be over-stressed but it is a pleasure to find a British comedy that is rooted in local observation without succumbing to parochialism. Nikita Mikhalkov's *A Private Conversation* (Phoenix, East Finchley, PG) is a real oddity, but a pretty resituable one, a two-hander adapted (it is not hard to deduce) from the stage, in which a woman and her ex-husband confusingly relive a succession of marital and other vicissitudes, ingenious stage management and technical trickery in the matter of lighting and dissolves are no substitute for thematic clarity or the capacity to get us involved with the protagonists. *Committed* (Screen at the Electric, made by Sheila

CANNES: Derek Malcolm reports on the festival's major prize-winners

Hollywood's big palm-off

IT WAS perhaps poetic justice that, in the very year the organisers of the Festival returned Hollywood back to Cannes, the grand jury insisted on giving the Golden Palm to a little known Yugoslavian director. Most people thought this was chiefly the doing of Milos Forman, president of the jury, since Emir Kusturica, whose *Daddy's On a Business Trip* won the most coveted festival award, was trained at the same Prague Film School in which Forman learnt his craft so well. The film, which is about a young boy growing up during the Stalinist period when his father has fallen foul of the authorities, has many touches which remind one of the great cinema of the late sixties. Though far too long — unlike such movies as Forman's *Blonde in Love* or Menzel's *Closely Observed Trains* — it is funny, mordant and full of the same sympathy for the individual against the system. Not a bad prize-winner at all, in fact; though certainly a surprising choice, Hollywood will not be best pleased.

That was the "special grand prize of the jury", Ivan Szabo won the grand prize with *Col. Redl*, which had been heavily tipped for the Golden Palm. But it was not to be Hungary's Festival since Klaus Maria Brandauer, the leading actor, favourite for the acting prize, also failed to catch the jury's eye. Instead, the Best Actor prize went to William Hurt as the homosexual prisoner in Hector Babenco's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; and Cher, who is excellent in Peter Bogdanovich's *Mask*, shared the best actress award with Norma Aleandro from the Brazilian entrant, *The Official History*. Britain came out of the festival quite well, since Nicholas Roeg's *Insignificance* won the Technicians Prize, Mike Newell's *Dance With a Stranger* was adjudged the best non-French entry in the Director's Fortnight and Malcolm Mowbray's *A Private Function* was much liked in the section entitled *Un Certain Regard*. Even so, the general opinion was that this was a very moderate festival this year, with far too much attention paid to the kind of Hollywood films that scarcely needed a festival outing. But then Hollywood is big business, and that is what the organisers were after. The presence at the festival of James Stewart (with *Chinatown*), Clint Eastwood and Cher, among others, signalled quite a lot.



Matthew Modine in Alan Parker's prize-winning film, *Birdy*

year the prizes could be awarded in the same way as the Eurovision Song Contest. But even Cannes might think that was going too far. Anyway, the critics gave their prize ex aequo to the Yugoslavian film and to Woody Allen's *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, which was out of competition; and the Golden Camera for the best first film went to Venezuela for a film called *Orlane* which scarcely seemed to merit it. It was not, however, as silly an award as that of the main

jury who dubbed Andre Techine as Best Director for a dreadful piece called *Rendezvous*. Poor old Godard got nothing at all for *Detective*, a much superior effort, and Clint Eastwood's sojourn on a yacht in the bay, in support of his *Pale Rider*, went unrewarded too. "There is no science to choosing the prizes," said Forman, a trifle elliptically. "We used our heads and our hearts, and where the heart is concerned there is often injustice."

Wings and a prayer

Chris Burkham joins the small fry on the fringe

Michael Coulson and Nicholas Bruce, co-directors of *Wings of Death*



IN THE small Star Cinema on the Rue D'Antibes, Nicholas Bruce is sitting at the edge of the aisle — "in case I want to leave." Out in the foyer Michael Coulson is pushing a second stick of Hollywood chewing gum into his mouth, too nervous to even enter the auditorium. Four minutes too long to be officially entered in the shorts category of the Cannes Film Festival, their 15-minute film *Wings of Death* is receiving its first public screening. It was only a week earlier that Bruce and Coulson decided to travel to Cannes for the premiere of the latest film they have written and directed together. They arrived on the Thursday evening totting a bundle of posters to flypost the town with that night. Instead they are immediately thrown into the carnivorous atmosphere of the Cannes film festival party, the Coca Cola Kid in a beach-front restaurant. They hand out postcards promoting *Wings of Death* (A tragedy) — "a little in that it's easier to get heroin than a job in Britain" — to the producers, directors, stars and would-be quaffing free liquor. Tourists and locals peer down at them from above. Hungover the following morning, they push through the Cannes veterans, accreditation cards slung round their necks like so many dog-tags, to film in the forms for their own passes. This is Cannes on the cheap — they share four

shots in a photo-booth strip two apiece. Their "accommodation" is two sofas in the offices of Palace Pictures. All around them in the New Palace the talk is of deals and percentages, of films worth seeing and of those not worth mentioning. They pin posters in prime positions on the British Film Year stand. Behind them American mass entertainment is pumped out non-stop from a bank of video monitors. "Now that's how you should promote films," grins Coulson, returning his gaze to the single British screen, set back almost out of sight from the thoroughfare. It is showing *The Company of Wolves*, for which they draw the storyboard. Out on the streets they tape up posters, beneath billboards for Clint Eastwood's film, on telephone boxes, in shops and cafes. Only the Carlton Hotel — where Jean Luc Godard and Menahem Golan write two million dollar contracts on a napkin — turns them away. Bruce and Coulson, who met at Middlesex Polytechnic in the 70s and formed Muscle Films in the aftermath of punk, are small beer in this world. Cannes could be their first step up. "The reason for bringing the film to Cannes was to sell it and get it seen — which is the whole point, even if only on a toilet wall. The *Wings of Death* premiere bodes well. The Star Cinema fills up with a respectable-sized audience.

The American producer of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, David Weisman, arrives with three Soviet film buyers. Then there's Steve Wooley and Paul Webster from Palace, Simon Relph, the producer of *Wetherby*. "The reaction is positive. People seem surprised by the intensity of the imagery," remarks Bruce afterwards. It is a film about obsession; Dexter Fletcher (now filming *Revolution* with Al Pacino) plays a heroin addict during his final hours in an hotel room. It is direction rather than the writing which is the film's strength. The film feels like a trailer for a feature in its use of the big screen. "I had expected the place to be vile," admits Coulson the following day, "but it's

actually pretty exciting." The two of them are beginning to feel slightly frazzled by the never-ending activity around them. The festival is as surreal as a film set — the enforced proximity to so many people, the late nights and early mornings. "It was a risk showing the film so late," admits Bruce, "showing it in such a small cinema with no attendant, glamour, no party, no big support — just with flyposting and word of mouth. The fruits of it won't really be known for some time. At least it drew in a lot of interesting people." There was one positive result: festivals in New York, Australia and Edinburgh have shown an interest. *Wings of Death* may have transcended the idea of a short, according to one producer.

BRIEFING

Best films

The Grey Fox (Screen on the Hill). Appealing and distinctive Canadian western with stand-out performance by veteran Richard Square (Leicester Square). The human face of sci-fi in John Carpenter's beautifully crafted road movie with a difference. A Love In Germany (Chelsea and Camden Plaza). Wain's uneven but powerful impression of small town life in wartime Germany. The Times Of Harvey Milk (Academy). Oscar-winning documentary on assassinated gay politician: self-reflecting in means, impassioned in effect. The Cotton Club (Odeon, Leicester Square). Coppola's farious blockbuster of folk

de grandeur: remarkable incidentals in search of a framework. Best on TV Babyton (Friday, C4, 11.30). Strongly felt and persuasively made view of life among black teenagers in Brixton (made 1980). I Wonder Who's Kissing Her New (Saturday, C4, 2 pm) June Haver in agreeable Fox musical (1947); sturdy songs, back-of-envelope script. The Square Peg (Sunday, BBC, 1.3 pm) Best of the Norman Wisdom farces, rough and ready but enthusiastically ridiculous. The Awful Truth (Sunday, C4, 10.15). High-spirited screwball comedy (1937) with imitable playing by Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. With A Song In My Heart (Monday, C4, 2.23). Handsomely mounted bio-pic of singer Jane Brown with all

stop-out performance by Susan Hayward. Death In Venice (Monday, BBC-2, 9.25). Visconti's celebrated and (perhaps overly) sumptuous version of Mann's novel; exceptional playing by Dirk Bogarde. New on video Virgin Video has released 1984 on its Premiere label, and other new titles available from the company include James Ivory's *Hush* and *Over George* and Bonnie's *Pictures*. Special interest The National Film Theatre's *Dancin'* season of musicals includes several neglected movies, among them *Mother Wore Tights* (tonight), *Lullaby Of Broadway* (Saturday) and Stanley Donen's *Give A Girl A Break* (Friday). On Tuesday, David Thomson, the brilliant film

critic, gives a Guardian Lecture in connection with the publication of his novel *Suspects*. From Monday to Friday, the Hampstead Everyman is mounting an ambitious season of music videos, which will be embellished by a discussion of the genre (Monday) and a live performance (Friday) by the Australian band Severed Heads. The Scala, Kings Cross, starts a week-long Russ Meyer retrospective on Saturday. Outside London Malvern's Fringe Arts Festival has showings of *Cal* (tonight) and *The Ploughman's Lunch* (Tuesday), with a British film weekend on June 1 and 2 at the Tudor Hotel, Great Malvern. Films in the Dolton and Dowland Festival, Devon, include *Paris, Texas* (today and tomorrow) and *La*

Balance (Tuesday and Wednesday). Derek Jarman's adaptation of *The Tyneside Cinema*. Newcastle on Sunday is *The Spy In Black* and *The Thief Of Baghdad*. The Japanese season at Ipswich Film Theatre takes in *Gate Of Hell* on Sunday. The Duke's Playhouse, Lancaster, shows the Talking Heads movie *Stop Making Sense* on Sunday and Monday. Tim Palleine

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This year, next year, something

Teachers and employers sit down again today in the Burnham negotiating committee with a resolution of the 1985 pay dispute still far off. Industrial action by the biggest teachers' union, the NUT, is larger than ever this week. Meanwhile, following Monday's ministerial council of war at 10 Downing Street, there is no more money on the table for this year. Mrs Thatcher, as she repeated to the Conservative Women's Conference yesterday, is toughing it out for the Government's existing 4 per cent offer, while the unions are still officially sticking out for 12. The best that the unions can hope for today is that the increasingly sympathetic local authorities will offer to cobble together a 6 per cent package. The political momentum for that level of improvement is certainly there. The shire county elections have pushed the balance among the employers' representatives on Burnham to the teachers' way. Several previously hard-line Tory authorities have swung round behind the NUT's demand for a better offer. And Tory backbench MPs have begun putting their names to a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to negotiate with the teachers in "a spirit of goodwill." But it is still a long way short of what the teachers want and need.

The instinctive reaction of any old union hand is not to be put off by these off-stage noises. Keep your eyes on the table, they say, and count the real money that is actually being put forward. This attitude clearly lay behind the unions' immediate reaction to Tuesday night's initiative from the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph. Sir Keith emerged from Monday's Downing Street session with permission to dangle more money for next year in front of the unions—but with nothing on offer this time round. On Tuesday he wrote to the education authorities proposing a 1986-7 package of extra pay in return for agreement in principle on new contracts of service. The unions' first responses were scornful. Yesterday, however, a more reflective tone was adopted by the NUT's deputy general secretary, Mr Doug McEvoy, traditionally a hard money on the table man. After a good night's sleep, Mr McEvoy had

discovered that Sir Keith was offering concessions and improved wording on new contracts. The NUT, he said, would be willing to negotiate in due course.

In all the circumstances, the NUT has little alternative but to pick up that olive branch. Gradually, the unions are winning modest gains on all fronts. But their chances of a knock-out victory on this year's dispute are getting slimmer. The summer holidays loom and, with them, inevitable loss of momentum towards further concessions. What is more, the Government is winning its battle with Labour local authorities over their spending plans. It is not going to jeopardise this agonisingly achieved success with a sudden injection of new funds for any purpose. This is not to say that an improved offer cannot—still less, should not—be put together by a combination of creative accountancy and political will. But the reality has always been that the teachers will not get the level of pay improvement which they want, and deserve, without some form of package deal on contracts. A further year's wait for the big one is therefore a modest price to pay. Sir Keith, however, has still got something to prove. He should say soon how much money is available for 1986. A public commitment now to a figure will help him in his own dealings with the Treasury. It will help the unions to sell this year's more modest settlement to their members. And it will reassure the teachers that, with inflation rising, they are not merely being fobbed off with vague assurances.

Much shuffling in the dark

Mrs Margaret Thatcher may or may not be planning a sweeping minimal Cabinet reshuffle this summer/autumn/next year. Five greying and senior heads may or may not be on the Downing Street hit list. Mr Norman Tebbit may or may not become party chairman this year or next year. And that, for all the frissons of mutually contradictory excitement pulsing through the Conservative Party's Fleet Street house organs, is just about the sum of knowledge in the perennially speculative area of reshuffles that haven't happened yet. Indeed, if Mrs Thatcher shares the common human trait of not deciding about these things too far in advance, that is probably as much as she knows too.

A consensus of speculation would probably, at this moment, seal Mr Tebbit's ac-

cession to Smith Square early in the autumn; resurrect Mr Cecil Parkinson at Treasury; see Mr Peter Rees depart the Treasury for the tax bar; punish Mr Michael Jopling, and give or take the odd tinker, leave the team she has as the team that faces the electorate two or three years hence. And, on most past form, Mrs Thatcher might rate good marks for such prudence. Unlike her Labour predecessors she has not chopped and changed frequently. A Wilsonian ritual that gave the veneer of freshness to a Cabinet which seldom had time to master the details of its briefs.

But... this time there is a big but. Any rational political analyst arriving fresh on the British scene, to proffer advice would surely find the likely course of events, and the alternative, speedier course urged on Mrs Thatcher by her unpaid press advisers, a little on the dotty side. It is one of those debates built on rumour which has twisted and turned over months with a life of its own, so that what you get at the end in no way resembles what you might have had if you'd started from Square One. Take Mr (putative) Chairman Tebbit. A formidable hatchetman and political operator who inevitably (and rightly) developed an extra dimension of public sympathy as he was dragged, last year, from the rubble of the Grand Hotel. At present, it may be argued, the Conservatives have a rather feeble chairman, both organisationally and presentationally. How much wiser then to shift a national, instantly recognisable figure into that post (especially if it lifts the burden of running a large Government department from his shoulders)? On one level, it all makes sense. But turn the question around and ask what sort of front man a Conservative Party drooping pitifully in today's Marplan needs? What sort of message should he convey? Mr Tebbit conveyed his own personal message clearly enough on Tuesday night at the—curiously well-televised—CBI dinner. It was bark and bite, scorn and unrelenting determination to change nothing. If the Tories are vulnerable in the polls to charges of "not caring" about unemployment, then would Mrs Thatcher be wise to put her toughest bowyer boy at the head of the 1987 panzers? Equally, will the political demise of Mr Rees or Mr Jopling matter one whit?

A dispassionate political analyst might, in fact, note rather different things about the plight and prospects of the Government. He might, for a start, be impressed by a ripe crop of relatively young talent in waiting for high office: the Pattons, Chris and

John; Mr Tony Newton, Mr Norman Lamont, Miss Lynda Chalker, Mr Kenneth Baker, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Mr Kenneth Clarke. And there are at least half-a-dozen other names—wet and dry—who could be on that list. These people, he'd say, are around the age of the three leaders of the Opposition parties. They're good in the House, on their feet. And they look as though they've enthusiasm to get to work on a third term of government which is the point of the exercise. Meanwhile the real trouble for the Government you've got, Ma'am, is the fact that the three most really senior posts in it, the posts that help a Prime Minister set the tone of her administration, are occupied by Mr Lawson, Mr Brittan and Sir Geoffrey. Excellent fellows, no doubt, but not precisely heart-stoppers. If you really want to make a difference, you'd get on with a sweeping reshuffle that made your whole team seem younger and fitter and more reasonable and more eloquent.

That, though, is just the sort of advice which Mrs Thatcher, on her track record, is least likely to heed: for criticisms of her most important choices are, of course, implicit criticisms of her own judgment. So we'll continue to hear a deal more about Mr Tebbit's future, and Mr Peter Rees's delinquent future, as though such stuff were really a response to the problem. Meanwhile the grey nooks and crannies of the possible—like Lord Hailsham's eventual retirement from the Woolsack—will continue to be clogged up by irritating bits of reality. If he goes, and Sir Michael Havers gets the job, can we remotely chance a byelection in Wimbledon? It will all be a good deal less pulsating in practice than the wonderful world of what might or might not be, the world where pundits earn their corn and Prime Ministers are suddenly free, at a stroke, to set the heavens resounding.

Pretoria's atom bomb

The anti-apartheid campaign in the United States, having had the wit to exploit that country's Freedom of Information Act, has now managed to produce the best evidence we are likely to get that South Africa is an unacknowledged member of the nuclear club. As we reported yesterday, the US Naval Research Laboratory studied a mysterious double flash over the Prince Edward Islands picked up by an American

satellite in the early hours of September 22, 1979, from the southern Indian Ocean and concluded with confidence that it had been a nuclear explosion in the atmosphere. The evidence remains purely circumstantial, as it must in the absence of a proclamation from Pretoria, but it is now a lot more solid than it was.

Whatever other sentiments the vision of a nuclear-armed South Africa may evoke, surprise isn't one of them. Pretoria has been engaged in nuclear research for a generation because it has large uranium deposits and a chronic energy problem. Its painfully, expensively and stealthily acquired expertise was bound to engender thoughts of military applications in South Africa's strategic circumstances. In 1982, on the unveiling of a highly sophisticated heavy artillery system, Armscor, the state weapons manufacturer, publicly boasted that the gun could fire a nuclear shell.

Even the smallest tactical nuclear weapons would have decidedly ambiguous value against generalised internal unrest in South Africa. They could be seen as of greater worth against a "total onslaught" from the north, but even South African propaganda now appears to regard such a development as inconceivable in the foreseeable future. Taking the low yield of the imputed 1979 test and Pretoria's confirmation that its 155mm howitzer can fire a nuclear warhead together, we may conclude that South Africa has all the nuclear weapons capacity it can imagine itself needing, whether as a deterrent or as a last resort for some kind of Gotterdammerung. Even with its ageing air force, South Africa looks invulnerable on the ground where it matters and overt nuclear posturing might provoke unwelcome attention from the superpowers. The strategic position in the sub-continent therefore remains broadly the same.

One is left wondering why Pretoria bothered. The answer may lie in the Middle East and in the entirely different strategic calculations of South Africa's silent partner in a whole range of military and nuclear enterprises, Israel. The newly unearthed American documents also add to the circumstantial evidence of nuclear cooperation between Israel, which is known to have advanced technology, and South Africa, which has not only the uranium (and later its own enrichment facilities) but also the ability to find the necessary empty space for conducting tests. Thus the belated discovery concerning the mysterious explosion near the Antarctic Circle nearly six years ago needs close study much further north in the world than appearances suggest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How the Home Office discriminates

Sir—The Home Secretary will no doubt repeat in the debate today the claim he made to the UK Immigration Advisory Service that the immigration rules are not discriminatory. But was certainly true until 1980, but there was a major change then.

Despite the accession of the racist, primary immigration from the new Commonwealth ended in the mid-70s, save for the "marriage" rule for marriages. Even when there was no restraint on such applications between 1975 and 1977, the number of women coming for marriage far exceeded the men.

The change in rules in 1977 stopped the very few bogus marriages. But the Conservatives were still paranoid about the possibility of an increasing number of men coming from the

subcontinent. At the peak in 1977, the total was only 3,500, whom we could well accommodate.

But this Government decided to put a stop to that sort of immigration by introducing rules which were plainly directed solely at the Asian arranged marriage system. Both the Immigration Tribunal and Mr Justice Forbes, in the test case of *Shah*, accepted that only arranged marriages are subject to the rule that the man must prove that his primary purpose was not to enter the UK.

Under the rule hundreds of fiances have been refused entry, as have more than 300 husbands, many with children in Britain whom they have never seen. That rule is racially discriminatory because it is directed only at Asians. In every case refused it is

accepted that the marriage is genuine, and the couple will probably live together for the rest of their lives.

If the Soviet Union were to treat fiancés and husbands in this way, there would be an outcry. I am sure that the rule is a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. It is intolerable that so much misery should be suffered by young British women of Asian origin for the sake of appeasing the small minority of racists in this country.

Similar misery is suffered by the wives and families who have been waiting in Pakistan, and particularly Bangladesh, for many years to join their husbands here. As the Commission for Racial Equality report clearly shows, the system is designed to impede the reunion of families on the

slimmest of evidence.

The only civilised policy to adopt is to change the rules so that the Home Office has to prove, beyond reasonable doubt, that a claim to family relationship is false. The House of Lords has hinted that that should be the rule when an immigrant is suspected of fraud. But it is surely much more important that a family should not be broken up than that a criminal charge should be proved.

The criminal burden of proof need not be used for people coming for temporary stay, such as visitors or students. But it is essential to use it for family relationships. Until we do, the appalling treatment of black people by this country will not end.—Yours sincerely,

Alex Lyon,
23 Larkhall Rise,
London SW4.

Why it's the Eurocommunists who are the hardliners



Sir—In a number of your reports and articles on the current divisions within the Communist party of Great Britain, there has been a tendency to categorise those who have been disciplined and expelled as "hardliners" and "Stalinists" rejecting a new, creative, democratic Marxism.

The bitter truth is that the Eurocommunist group now in the majority on the executive has committed itself publicly to policies somewhat to the right of Kinnock and is preparing to impose them ruthlessly upon a minority and divided party, if necessary by mass expulsions.

It has endorsed the view that socialism in Britain is not an agenda item, the labour movement should be controlled through an incomes policy; that Britain should remain in the EEC; and class analysis is obsolete.

But how are we to understand some of the central issues of our time—peace, women's liberation, the environment, democratic rights, racism and apartheid—unless we see the ways in which the political, social and cultural life of our society is dominated, as Marx correctly argued, by the relation between those who have wealth and power—the capitalist class—and those whom they exploit and oppress?

I believe socialism in Britain can be achieved only through a profound transformation of present capitalism.

Miscellany at Large

Sir—It is interesting to note that Professor Robert Morris holder of the first Koestler Chair of Parapsychology (*Guardian*, May 20) has no apparent acquaintance with philosophy or sociology. If he had, he would have realised that philosophers have shown why there can be no paranormal phenomena, and sociologists why they continue to be believed in.

Professor Morris is wasting his time and, I hope, only Koestler's money.
Ray Enfield,
University of Warwick.

Sir—Surely, the most boorish behaviour of the Cup Final arose as the royal personage studiously avoided any suggestion of communication with the dejected Moran as the latter shuffled dejectedly past the sanctum of presentation.

Geoffrey Wall,
Beccles, Suffolk.

Sir—Harry Whewell's article on hospital exophthalmos

When charm is not enough to win over the media

Sir—Patrick Wintour is correct to point out in his article on the media and the miners' strike (*Guardian*, May 20) that there were weaknesses in the NUT's media strategy. No doubt the union itself would admit to the difficulties of competing with the highly organised, highly resourced NCB press office.

The emphasis given to this point, however, is entirely understated and misrepresents the real forces with which the NUT had to contend.

These are the forces which weigh heavily against every movement ranged outside the NUT's media strategy. No establishment that the media generally favour. They are the material and ideological forces reflected in the patterns of ownership, control, and employment in the industry.

In *Digging Deeper*, a book on the strike, Alan Fountaine a commissioning editor at Channel 4 reminds us that "not only are the individual (television) companies completely undermined in their organisation, structure, and decision making but also that their controlling bodies—the BBC governors and the IBA board—are constituted entirely by appointment."

We should also remember the capacity of those in power to use and strengthen the means of communication easily available to them. In the case of this important dispute the Government and Coal Board used the media, directly and indirectly, to

shape public opinion and thereby construct a definition of what the strike was about.

It is understandable that friendly media practitioners should insist that we use the media more effectively. This advice, which our campaign also gives, is important because in small ways it regulates the arbitrary use of power by editors, proprietors, and governors.

However, a better media strategy will not in itself overcome the real antagonism, differences, and inequalities between the media institutions and the organised labour movement. To pretend that it will is to create an illusion certain to increase the frustration, despair, and pessimism about the media that is already rife within the labour movement.

Any strategy for dealing with the media will inevitably come up against the reality of power in our society. It is the role of a campaign like ours to promote an awareness of that among those who control the means of expression, and to change the methods by which they do so.

So far we have met a cynical response from most, though not all, sections of the industry. This attitude of contempt for the media and the way the media operate during the mining dispute damaged their credibility among thousands of people in the mining communities who day by day failed to recognise their own struggle as reflected in newspapers and on television.

Yours sincerely,
Loretta Loach,
(Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, London W1).

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK: The sandy grass heaths of West Norfolk, littered with frost-shattered slints of the last Ice Age, have been the scene of dramatic changes over the centuries. Like most of England's countryside, they became largely tree-covered and thronged with deer when milder, wetter climate prevailed, until Neolithic settlers cleared and burned the forest and created a dust-bowl. There followed a long period in which patchy cultivation, sheep grazing and, in Norman times, the introduction of rabbits maintained the open character of the area; and in the 17th century we find John Evelyn describing its spectacular inland sand dunes and a rolling plain inhabited by great bustards. In my lifetime vast stretches of this land have been afforested with conifers, while new farming techniques have resulted in much reclamation; but there is still a considerable acreage of rough heathland in use as a training area for the fighting forces and this, in spite of the violent disturbance of army exercises, provides an effective sanctuary for the

native flora, birds and much other wildlife of peculiar interest. In addition a few of the more important ones have been saved by the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council, which seek to manage them sensitively so as to maintain their traditional character. Visiting one of the heaths most recently saved from destruction, I have just enjoyed a vision of mosses, dwarf flowering plants in sheep-grazed turf, striped snails still abroad in the overnight dew on a sunny morning, scarlet ladybirds safe from the hazards of crop-spraying, larks cavilling overhead, and lizards basking on tussocks. Curlew, wheatear, and whinchat nest there and green woodpeckers find delight in the numerous ant-hills. Both acid and chalky soils support their different floras, forming a mosaic of much interest and beauty. It was pleasant to be reminded that Mammot does not rule conservation is concerned so long as its aims are supported with generosity by the discerning.

E. A. ELLIS.

THE RECUPERATIVE EFFECTS

of The Macallan Single Highland Malt Whisky have riden been over stirring tucked upon than in a letter recently received.

"AS A WEE LAD, I once accompanied Grandfather, his shillies, and Ben the Labrador, to fish for salmon; but I never struck and I fell into the Spey's icy swirling waters."

Ben kept in to retrieve me and, near death, I and the exhausted dog were hauled up the bank.

"Quick, Hamish! The Macallan!" cried Grandfather.

A large dram was poured down Ben's throat and, in a trice, he was on his feet licking the colour back to my frozen cheeks.

"A near thing!" gasped Grandfather.

"Aye," replied Hamish.

"Ah dinnu ken where we'd ha' found another dog like Ben?"



A reminiscence donated by Commander Peter Craig, RN (Retd), Gordon, Coningsby Exhibition, at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Devonport.

Of course, another interpretation is that the animal nudged the lad into the water, in the interests of getting its reward. But what could a mere hound know of sherry-cask ageing and silken gustatory resonances? At all events, tuck a bottle in your next hamper.

THE MACALLAN. THE MALT.

FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thursday May 23 1985 13



Sun, sex, and quails

Saffron Davies throws light on the sex life of the Japanese quail

THERE is an old wives' tale that if we eat lots of carrots we can see better in the dark. This tale has some foundation because carrots contain vitamin A, and this vitamin can be converted into rhodopsin — a photosensitive pigment which is found in the retina of the eye. When light, particularly of the lower wave lengths, enters the eye, it splits the rhodopsin molecule in two and this action immediately sets up little electrical signals which are then transmitted to our brains. In this way we are aware of what we are looking at.

Recently the same, or similar, visual pigment has been found deep in the brains of Japanese quails, and it is there for the purpose of switching on and off the activity of the ovaries or testes of these birds.

There are interesting implications. Mammals and birds can only breed during a limited period of the annual cycle — the so-called seasonal breeders. This ensures that their offspring are produced at a time of the year which is most advantageous to their survival. Short-day breeders are those animals whose breeding season begins when day length shortens in the autumn months, while the reproductive activity of long-day breeders is stimulated as the day length increases during the spring. Thus for one period of the year the gonads of seasonal breeders are busy working away producing eggs or sperm and hormones, while during the non-breeding season the gonads regress; they become small and inactive. But what switches the ovaries or testes on and off?

We know that it has to do with the duration of light and dark phases over a 24 hour period, and that parts of the brain are sensitive to changes in the precise timing of the light/dark cycle. The brain translates these light cues into electrical signals and these, in turn, appropriately stimulate or inhibit the release of specific chemicals (neurohormones) from the part of the brain which regulates the gonads.

Now, in many mammals which are seasonal breeders the pineal gland is important in conveying light/dark signals to the brain. This gland, attached to and lying on top of the brain, releases a substance, melatonin, but this release only occurs during night time. Therefore, in the short day/long night winter, melatonin is secreted for a relatively longer period of time compared with the summer months and in this way the hormone tells the brain the duration of the dark phase of the 24-hour cycle.

In some birds different mechanisms regulate seasonal breeding. The pineal gland does not appear to be important because even after it has been taken away the birds will still show annual reproductive changes. Instead, it is something in the brain itself that responds to changes in the light/dark cycle. But what?

One part of the brain that is sensitive to the light/dark cycle is the hypothalamus and this structure, lying right at the bottom of the brain, also controls the release of the trophic sex hormones — these are the hormones that nudge the gonads into action. Elegant experiments by Brian Follett and his colleagues at the University of Bristol have shown that there are photoreceptors in the hypothalamus itself, which like the receptors in the retina of the eye contain a rhodopsin-like photopigment. (Nature 313:50, 1985) What they did was to attach a fibre optic to the skull of a Japanese quail so that they could illuminate the specific part of the brain known to be light sensitive and responsible for switching breeding on or off. The birds were kept in the dark, but the hypothalamus was selectively illuminated through the fibre optic for 20 hours. The birds are long-day breeders, so they biologically interpreted this long light signal as the onset of spring — consequently, the release of the trophic sex hormones was stimulated. The crux of their work was to show that the greatest stimulation of gonadotrophin release was measured when the brain received light at a wave length of about 500 nm (nanometers) — the same wave length at which the rhodopsin in the eyes is most sensitive and absorbs the maximum amount of light.

In all, it looks as if the visual purple or rhodopsin is present in the photoreceptors of the brain as well as in the eye, and presumably these receptors are sensitive to light in the same way as the photoreceptors in the retina. But instead of telling our brains what we are looking at, they ultimately tell the gonads whether they should be switched on or off.

AND NOW, they say, even sleep can damage your health and, possibly, the health of future generations. Human sperm counts have been falling for some time in industrialised countries such as the United States, with some research results suggesting that the average American male today produces less than half of the sperm produced by the average male 50 years ago. One possible cause, according to Dr Ralph Dougherty of Florida State University, is the use of foam mattresses.

When he ran tests on semen donated by students, he found traces of Fyrol FR2, a flame-retardant used to cut down the fire risks associated with foam-filled furniture. Around the world, too, scientists have been reporting unexpectedly high concentrations of such chemicals as polychlorinated biphenyls, better known as PCBs, in semen samples. Such chemicals, widely disseminated in the environment by various industrial activities, are increasingly seen as likely culprits for the parallel downward trend in reported sperm densities — although there are a number of confounding factors.

Sperm density and male fertility can be reduced, for example, by increased sexual activity, by smoking, by drug abuse, and by alcoholism. They are also influenced by temperature: men who live in colder climates tend to show higher sperm counts, as do men who wear loose-fitting underwear.

But, even allowing for these factors, there is strong evidence that the increasing exposure of modern man to a growing number of industrial chemicals is producing measurable falls in sperm counts leading, in some cases, to actual sterility. Twenty-three per cent of the students Dougherty tested proved to be functionally sterile — showing less than twenty million sperm cells in each millilitre of semen. Functional sterility does not imply a total inability to father children, but it can result in considerable difficulties being experienced by would-be fathers.

Indeed, if the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle were the unwitting symbols of the early poisoning of wildlife by synthetic crop protection chemicals, it is fair to say that the human sperm is in danger of becoming the symbolic counterpart as far as the chemical disruption of the human reproductive cycle is concerned.

Toxicologists have been enjoying boom times in recent years as an ever-growing list of chemicals has come under suspicion of causing various forms of ill-health or environmental damage. And reproductive toxicology, which focuses on the effects of chemicals on the health of the reproductive system, is a hot new area of research. It is the health both of the unborn and of surviving children, has been growing faster than most areas of toxicology.

Given the psychological aspects of some reproductive effects, such as menstrual disorders or a loss of sexual libido, it may be difficult to interpret them with any degree of certainty. But other aspects of the human reproductive cycle, such as sperm counts, numbers of live and still births, birth weights, and infant survival and birth defect rates, can be reliable indicators of a chemical's potential for disrupting reproduction.

However, a basic problem facing those who would use human sperm as an indicator of environmental pollution, in the same way that earlier researchers used the health of the reproductive system of the feathered victims of such chemical compounds as DDT became, ultimately, indisputable. It was no longer simply a question of ornithologists writing learned papers on the relative thickness of eggshells: anyone who cared to take a walk in the countryside was likely to trip over the evidence, in the form of dead birds, dead foxes, and the other biological fallout which followed in the wake of the new synthetic pesticides.

With human sperm, on the other hand, the question of whether sperm counts have actually been falling significantly is still the subject of a sometimes bitter controversy. A landmark study of sperm counts and sperm quality was carried out in 1951 by Professor John MacLeod of Cornell University Medical College. His results, based on 2,000 fertile and infertile men, were widely accepted and have been used as a reference standard in later studies. MacLeod himself said in 1979 that his results over the previous three decades showed no clear trend, but younger scientists disagree. They claim that there was a significant decline in sperm counts from those reported in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s to those reported in the 1960s and 1970s. They also urge that more attention be paid to sperm quality.

In the time it took for John Wayne to grow old, the US male became only half the man he was... And a recent transatlantic survey of male students found that almost one in four was functionally sterile. You can blame it, reports John Elkington, on chemicals, ranging from pesticides to foam mattresses

American virility goes west



The Ringo Kid, alias John Wayne, en route for stardom in Stagecoach: no danger then from Kepone

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One possible technique for assessing male fertility, and one which has been extensively used in testing the sons of mothers treated with the

controversial synthetic oestrogen DES, is the "sperm penetration assay." Developed by researchers at the University of Hawaii, this uses denuded hamster eggs as targets for human sperm, to test the sperm's fertilising capacity. Those using the assay stress that you do not end up with a human-hamster hybrid, or "hamster." But the sperm of infertile men, it turns out, rarely penetrate the denuded hamster egg.

Two chemical compounds which have been found to have a profound impact on the fertility of men exposed to them are dibenzochlorodioxane (DBCD), used as a soil fumigant, and chlordane (better known as Kepone), the pesticide which, for a time, ranked as the most publicised toxin — coming place only to that toxin of toxins, dioxin. Even one part per million of

Kepones has been found to have a marked effect on the reproduction of such test species as pheasants: 25 parts per million put an almost total brake on pheasant reproduction, while at 50 ppm male pheasants developed female plumage and showed misshapen sperm. After the worst Kepone disaster yet, which resulted in the forced closure of a company called Life Science Products and in the closure of an entire river and estuary to fishing, the investigators found low sperm counts and an unusual proportion of abnormal sperm among workers at the plant whose mismanagement had resulted in widespread Kepone contamination.

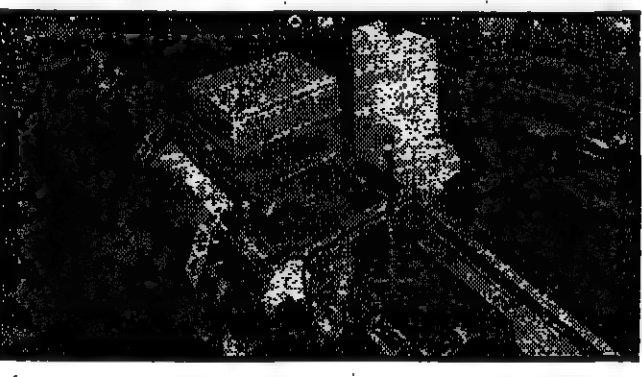
The real problem is that there are still so many unanswered questions in this field. Evidence from animal tests strongly suggests that the offspring of males exposed to such chemicals as methadone or morphine are much more likely to be born before they are weaned. Or, to take two more widely used chemicals, there is also evidence that both the consumption of caffeine and smoking by fathers can have a significant effect on the health and survival of any children they may have.

But how are these effects caused? Are they the result of damage to the sperm itself, perhaps expressed as reduced ribosomal activity? Do the chemicals, or morphine appears to change the chemical make-up of semen, impeding the movement of sperm? Or is there an even more ominous possibility?

Experiments with rabbits have shown that if you feed male animals with thalidomide, the drug and its breakdown products appear in the semen itself. Thalidomide has been found in the sperm of male patients at one American clinic, while similar effects have been reported in patients undergoing anticonvulsant therapy, and in heroin users.

Cases which have been reported of women developing an allergic reaction to their partners' sperm also suggest that semen itself in some instances, and in others possibly contaminants in the semen, may be altering the chemistry of the woman's ways which may be detrimental to the developing embryo. The sperm may yet prove to be the Trojan Horse of reproductive toxicology.

John Elkington is the author of *The Poisoned Woman: Human Reproduction in a Polluted World*, published next week by Viking, price £10.95.



Left: Part of the SNS proton accelerator ring. Right: Target area and experimental hall

Neutrons are shining in Oxfordshire. Anthony Tucker finds scientists with a £50 million reason to be cheerful

Britain's world-beating bit part splat machine

WHEN it comes to the fabric of support or the general morale of British civilisation, at the moment there is little to cheer about. It is in a Government-imposed spiral dive that is now so serious that recovery may not be possible this century. Yet, as the Government's own statistics demonstrate, the time-scale of momentum within the national scientific engine, there were cheers recently at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory (RAL) at the first-time triumphant run of an incredibly complex machine that is a product of ingenuity, determination and ingenuity, and which for the time being puts Britain in the forefront of a sector of research that, in the material sciences, could be crucially important.

The machine is the \$50 million Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), a massive research tool that — from the other side of the Atlantic — is seen as "a beam of a machine that's going to blow us right out of the water."

Scientists, these days, tend to adopt military analogies to please the hands that feed them, and to stir the patriotic spirit, but however much of the spirit of competition is stirred overseas the SNS — which makes some use of bits of high energy machines — and hence costs only about half as much as would a new machine of its capabilities —

promises to be a world leader for at least a decade. It will use very intense pulses of neutrons to investigate the structure of materials at the atomic level.

Spallation, incidentally, is the nuclear physicist's expression for a special kind of split — the fragmentation that occurs when something travelling very fast hits an immovable object. Neutrons, as everybody knows, are the sub-atomic particles which, in the right circumstances, produce fission reactions and which, apart from keeping nuclear reactors ticking over, represent a substantial proportion of the high energy radiation pulse which makes the effects of nuclear weapons such gloomy reading. A spallation neutron source is a giant machine in which high energy protons go splat — bang into a uranium target, and, without involving either the slow-fission or the fusion process, produce a shower of nuclear fragments dominated by neutrons.

In the machine pulses of protons will produce pulses of neutrons whose characteristics can be shaped — in terms of energy spectrum, pulse width and frequency — to suit specific experiments which will be clustered around the uranium target.

It needs to be stressed that neutron scattering is a technique which has been used

since the days of the first low-power nuclear research reactors from whose cores beams of slow neutrons were extracted for studies of crystal structure and other properties of materials.

Over the years the technique has become increasingly important in solid-state physics, in research into new polymers and plastic structures, in chemistry and in the investigation of biological structures — such as those of viruses or plasmids. The great advantage of neutrons is simply that they are electrically neutral which means that they interact only weakly with the materials they encounter. That is precisely why they are very penetrating and it is also why they can be used very easily for the investigation of the deep structure of materials. The fact that they are sensitive to different isotopes and to the presence of magnetism in condensed materials can also be applied to the measurement of deep temperatures in large objects (such as turbines or any other kind of heat engine) gives them an extraordinary range of practical and research uses.

As in other processes involving either the direct or indirect illumination of structure, the key to clear vision is basically the brightness of the light — which in this context

means the flux of neutrons at a specific region of the energy spectrum. Nuclear reactors of ever greater flux intensity provided the first bright neutron sources and currently Britain is a partner (if rather late joiner) of the Institute Laue-Langevin (ILL) at Grenoble where a special reactor produces the highest continuous flux of neutrons on earth. Although ideally suited for some types of research, this continuous source has exceeded by the brightness of the peaks of the SNS neutron light, especially at high energies.

One obvious advantage of investigating materials by means of very short pulses is that structural movement — such as relaxation or defect growth — can be watched as it occurs, and there are powerful arguments for using one technique or the other for a specific purpose. But the fact is that both continuous neutron sources and pulsed sources have their specific virtues and that, if the SNS goes through its progression up to full energy without hitches, then Britain and any experimental collaborators should gather on contract will have the use of the most powerful pulsed source on earth.

Interestingly, the Russians are trotting along behind on a different and incredibly different route, trying to utilise a continuous high energy flux nuclear reactor as a pulsed source. This can be done, in a heavyweight kind of way, by having an enormous moving reflector which causes the neutrons to work in a pulsed way. The engineering is difficult, and although the source may compare in brightness with that attainable by the use of a proton accelerator, the pulses are much longer, which makes them far less useful for research. All of this, to which must be added enormously greater cost, leaves everyone except the Russians wondering why on earth they went that route.

The RAL scientists make no comment on the Russian machine. They are, however, acutely aware of the fact that while ILL at Grenoble has over 30 experiments clustered around the machine, the SNS has only five at the moment, of which one is Indian.

On present criteria there will be little British money for large experiments in the years ahead and, both implicitly and explicitly, RAL is ready to weigh all external proposals for SNS research on a scientific contract basis.

In two years, if the SNS is up to its designed performance, there will quite probably be US proposals for experiments. It would be an

interesting side-jobe of materials physics if a Russian pulsed neutron experiment were to sit side by side with those of Europe and the US in a laboratory very close to the cruise-missile denied hills of Berkshire.

David Gray, SNS project director, as delighted as he is with the fact that the machine worked first time, on schedule and within budget, looks at the future with less certainty than might be expected after a major technical triumph that confounded critics of his project's progress. The worry is that, because of financial constraints, the machine has been constructed and tested in segments in isolation, not as a continually growing and unified structure. Neither he nor anyone else knows what bugs are lurking inside and, with a machine that must keep 99 per cent of its proton beam on target if it is to avoid unacceptable radiation levels for normal maintenance, fingers are likely to be firmly crossed as its intensity is steadily raised over the months ahead.

"It is almost certain that we will have breakdowns of one kind or another simply as a result of the way we have had to work. It is an inevitable penalty of financial constraints whose effects nobody can even begin to estimate at this stage.

"Yet, as it is now, the machine is the brightest pulsed neutron source in the world and in two years we will be well ahead of any competition. What is more we have done it at half the cost of an entirely new machine." Right now, to be honest, it looks beautiful.

This type of research is regarded not as "big" or "small" science, but as "middle-cost" science with a budget for a major installation of a few £ million a year. The SNS, like RAL itself, is financed through the Science and Engineering Research Council whose commitment to high energy physics is now under detailed scrutiny. In recent years, because of Government stringency, dozens of the highest grade of small research projects have had to be rejected because there is simply no money for them. These include such crucially important areas as macro quantum devices and phenomena (Sussex) which by now should be the basis of a new institute.

There are many scientists who will see RAL's new "middle-cost" machine as a giant enemy. This is a symptom of the sickness of our times, and is a sickness alien to science itself. When there is success it deserves its cheers and its proper rewards, even on a starvation diet.

Ref: *The Astronomical J.*, vol. 90, p 827 (1985).

The flying pancake heads for earth

Robert Walgate looks forward to a close encounter with a spinning comet that might be about to disappear for ever

HALLEY'S comet will be encountered by a delegation of spacecraft from Europe, the USSR and Japan next March, but it won't be the first comet to have received visitors. That honour is reserved for the erratic, very short-period comet Giacobini-Zinner, which has returned every six years or so since it was discovered in 1900. Giacobini-Zinner will meet ICE, a re-named solar explorer satellite launched with quite another mission in 1978, on

September 11 this year at a closing speed of 27 km per second. And, according to astronomer Zdenek Sekanina, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, the encounter will be particularly interesting because Giacobini-Zinner is markedly different from the more sedate Halley.

Sekanina has calculated from orbit measurements that the nucleus of Giacobini-Zinner is spinning so fast (once every 80 minutes) that it is flattened into a giant pancake some 2.5 km across and just 300 metres thick. This means the cometary material is probably compacted dust, ice and frozen gases — must be so stressed by centrifugal forces that it is on the point of breaking up.

Every October, in fact, the Earth passes through the path of Giacobini-Zinner, and observers see the "Dracoid" meteor shower, which is the result of fragments of the comet entering the Earth's atmosphere. Every comet possesses such streams (Halley has the Eta Aquirids, through which the Earth passed last weekend), but Giacobini-Zinner's meteors appear to be particularly soft, burning up rather smudgily and high in the atmosphere, as if they were more snowball than rock. If this represents the substance of Giacobini-Zinner, it certainly must be unstable if it is spinning so fast. And comets sometimes do fragment in spectacular ways, so the 1985 appearance of Giacobini-Zinner "will provide an excellent opportunity to watch for any signs of nucleus breakup," Sekanina says.

Sekanina reached these conclusions after making a series of painstaking models of the fluctuating orbit of Giacobini-Zinner since 1900. All cometary orbits are affected by forces produced as gas and dust streams from them as the comets approach

the Sun — reacting rather like a jet plane to its exhaust — but Giacobini-Zinner seems to have been affected more than most. Moreover, these non-gravitational forces on Giacobini-Zinner were much greater in some of the 10 observed approaches of the comet than in others — which led Sekanina to hypothesise that the comet nucleus was asymmetrical, and on some approaches presented a large face to the Sun (causing most outgassing and the largest forces), and on others only a thin one.

This would be understandable, he argued, if the nucleus was spinning like a top, when the "tidal" forces on the cometary material as the comet approached the Sun would cause the top to slowly "precess" (its axis of rotation would change). Fitting all the observed data on brightness and orbit since 1900 led to the pancake model.

Spacecraft ICE, however, not being designed for a comet mission (it used to measure the solar wind, until using its hydrazine manoeuvring thrusters it was flung round the Moon and on out to the comet), will not be able to take pictures of the nucleus. But the missions past Halley, ICE (which used to be called ISEE-3) will measure ion compositions in Giacobini-Zinner's tail, and Sekanina's theory will depend much on observations from Earth.

On its next pass around the Sun (the comet comes closest to the Sun on September 5, when it will be just half the Earth-Sun distance from the Earth), Giacobini-Zinner's axis of rotation will twist another 40 degrees, Sekanina estimates, and the forces just could be enough to break the comet up, when it would make a spectacular multiple appearance in the sky.

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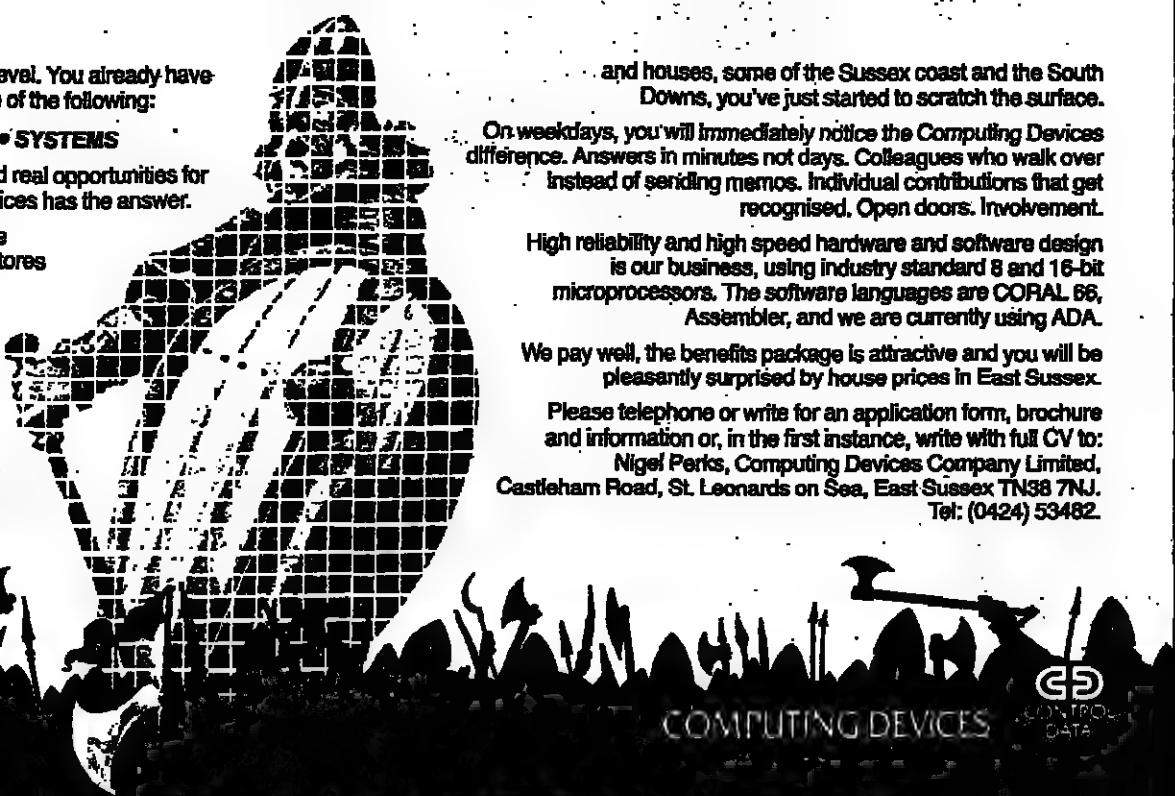
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TODAY the IBM Personal Computer dominates the market; tomorrow it will be dead. That's the view of professional IBM-watchers, who make their crust out of predicting what the tight-lipped giant will do next.

We are all waiting for IBM to launch its replacement, the PCII. This upgraded IBM PC will have an 80286 chip, an improved operating system, and possibly 3.5in disc drives. The Intel 80286 is much more powerful than the Intel 8088 used in the original PC. It is also, not coincidentally, the chip used in the wonderful "Advanced Technology" PC AT that IBM launched last year.

IBM-watchers have set several deadlines for the PCII's launch: December, February, April 30. So far, "Big Blue" has not deigned to meet any of them. However, there are reasons for thinking IBM will act soon.

First, the IBM PC is out of date. It was launched in August 1981, as a 16K cassette-based micro, with all the peripheral controllers on separate cards plugged into expansion slots on the main-board or "motherboard."

This made sense because it provided a supremely flexible system. Nowadays, things like floppy disc and screen controllers, printer drivers and a serial port are not optional extras. A serious computer system that didn't have them would be unmarketable.

It no longer makes sense to have them all on separate cards, because if you put them on the motherboard you get a smaller, neater, cheaper and more reliable machine.

Rival manufacturers are doing this. Hence IBM can afford to lag behind. Second, the 8/16 bit Intel 8088 is less powerful than the 16/32-bit chips now available. Today the IBM PC is slow compared with rivals like the Olivetti M-34 and Compaq Deskpro. In fact it is only about as fast as cheap home micros like the Amstrad and Acorn BBC B.

Worse still, there are machines on the way — the Atari 520ST, for example — that wipe the floor with the IBM PC but are only a third of the price. Any company serious about competing in the PC market for the IBM name and quality, but few want to pay a Jaguar price for Morris Minor 1000 performance.

IBM is well aware that the PC is reaching the end of its useful life. That's why it



The IBM PC AT: a way into the future? Picture by Frank Martin

IBM has yet to launch its latest personal computer. It may not arrive in time, writes Jack Schofield

The wait for the giant's latest offspring

launched the PC AT. The powerful 80286 chip used in that has two advantages. First, it can pretend to be an 8088 chip, and thus run existing IBM PC DOS software, only faster. Second, the 80286 has extra facilities that could be exploited by a new or improved operating system. Thus the new chip retains the best of the past, improves on it and offers a way into the future. What could be better than that?

The problem is that, with the PC AT, IBM has also tipped its hand to rivals, who are now throwing themselves

into this new market right behind IBM. The number of IBM PC-emulators is already falling, as these disappear from the market — of the majors, only Commodore is trying to jump on the bandwagon just as it grinds to a halt — while new AT-clones are being introduced every week.

Firms just announcing 80286-based micros include Compaq (with both portable and desktop models), Zenith, Intersec, Kaypro, TIT, Televideo, Corona and Texas Instruments. Intersec is already delivering produc-

tion models. Mitsubishi, Tandy, ACT and several other companies are not far behind.

The key to producing an AT-clone lies in making a ROM (read-only memory) chip to control the BIOS or basic input/output system. The AT's ROM cannot be copied, because the code is copyrighted by IBM. However, it is possible to design a different ROM to do the same job.

If this seems like hard work, you can buy a suitable ROM from Phoenix Software of Norwood, Massachusetts. Phoenix has copy-infringe-

ment insurance on its ROM, and can also supply stock designs for all the other bits of the AT-alike you might want to make.

If even that sounds too much, Nara Technologies of Santa Clara will sell you an AT-clone motherboard, so all you have to worry about is putting it in a box with disc drives etc. Incidentally, the Nara board has only 38 chips on it, where the IBM PC AT has more than 100. That's why the Nara board costs only \$400 — an AT for the price of an Acorn BBC B!

You can see why people are

wondering why IBM is holding back on the PCII.

One theory: IBM is waiting for an improved operating system, PC DOS version 3. The current version 3, supplied by Microsoft, has limitations. It can't talk directly to more than 640K memory, which is far less than the 80286 can use. Also it doesn't offer window management or multi-tasking. These are needed for a wimp (windows, icons, mouse program) interface to rival Apple's Macintosh and Digital Research's GEM. Alas, Microsoft has been demonstrating MS Win-

dows for almost 18 months, but has failed to deliver a finished product.

Another theory: IBM is going to change to 3.5in disc drives like Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Data General, ACT, Atari and other leading firms. The 3.5in discs are smaller and much more convenient than 5.25in ones, yet commonly store twice as much data — 720K, compared with the IBM PC's current 360K.

The 3.5in drives would be particularly desirable if IBM wants to market its long-rumoured "lap top" portable.

to rival The One from Data General. The disadvantages are that it will take time to transfer the huge mass of existing IBM software to the new format, and dealers will have to stock two of everything.

The operating system idea is more plausible. IBM has previously launched an improved operating system with each machine. DOS 1 came with the original PC in 1981. DOS 2 came with the hard-disc XT in 1983, and DOS 3 with the PC AT at the end of 1984. Perhaps DOS 4 is due at the end of this year. It seems unlikely that Microsoft will finish it much before then, but even less likely that IBM can hold back the PCII for that long.

Such thinking fuels speculation that IBM is working on its own operating system, called (unofficially) Big DOS. This will be able to use more than a megabyte of RAM, and exploit the 80286 chip's multi-tasking and memory management routines to run several programs at once. These facilities are not expected to be part of MS DOS until version 5 arrives in 1986.

Indeed, IBM has just launched its own multi-tasking window manager, TopView, but this has limited capabilities (no bit-mapped graphics). Anyway, if Microsoft can't make windows and multi-tasking work properly before 1986, it is even less likely that IBM can. Microsoft has a good track record in writing micro-computer software. IBM doesn't.

Where does this leave the would-be purchaser of a business microcomputer?

At the moment, the smart money is going mainly to Olivetti and Compaq: their 8086-based machines outperform the IBM equivalents, and they are better value.

In the future, users will be divided between user-friendly 68000-based micros (Apple Macintosh, Atari 520ST) and 80286-based "power user" models like the PC AT.

Already IBM seems to have difficulty meeting the huge demand for its PC AT, so if rivals get their AT-alikes out fast — as now looks increasingly likely — they could take a significant share of this market. IBM might just find it has jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

MicroMaths: Keith Devlin looks behind the keyboard to the logic and then solves a few puzzles

Print-outs and the negative computer

PART of this week's column is concerned with providing an update on problems in previous weeks (including an admission of some errors of judgment on my part), but I'll start off with some maths / computing books. Since "standard micro books" are frequently reviewed elsewhere on this page, I'll concentrate on the more esoteric stuff.

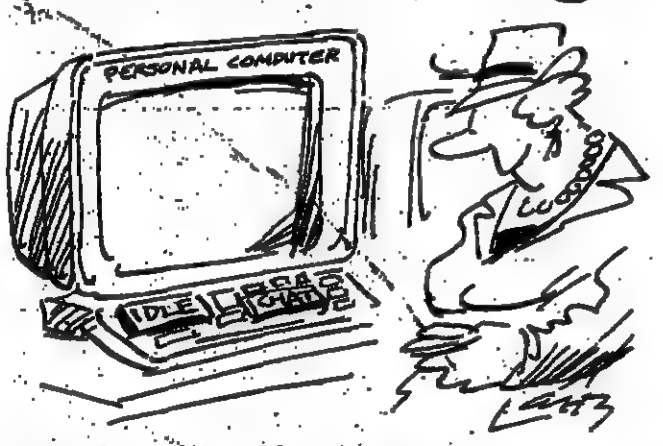
If you would like a reasonably simple introduction to logic design of computer circuits, try the book *From Logic to Computers* by P. J. Thewlis and R. N. T. Foxon (Blackwell), a 133 page paperback. This takes you from the basic ideas of mathematical logic and set theory through the construction of arithmetic units, the representation of data in computer memory, interfacing on to the construction of 8-bit microprocessors and the Motorola M6800 series microprocessors in particular.

It is a book which needs to be read steadily rather than skipped through, but if you get through its 133 pages you will have a reasonably good understanding as to what is going on underneath that keyboard. The emphasis is on the logical design rather than the electronics, so if you need a little extra brain and a little patience.

Also from Blackwell is *A First Course in Formal Language Theory* by V. J. Rayward-Smith. If you want to know something about the design and operation of high level programming languages such as Basic or Pascal, this book might answer your needs.

The subject is not easy and Rayward-Smith's 120-page treatment will probably prove hard going. It is written for first and second year computer science students, but should be accessible to anyone who is familiar with abstract mathematics such as abstract algebra, and who is used to following formal proofs of theorems. Given these prerequisites, you should find this an excellent concise treatment of a difficult subject.

Totally unconnected with computers but a magnificent little book to stimulate older schoolchildren (and therefore a must for school libraries) is *Images of Infinity*, produced and published by the League of Women, and obtainable from Tarquin Publications (whose prices in the artistic mathematics field I have sung on more than one occasion in this column). It is packed with pictures, paradoxes, and



properties of infinity, and surely cannot fail to arouse interest. Tarquin brings to mind Ivinica, Placa, of Oddy, Leicester, LE2 4LB, another of the few firms who produce a range of "toys" (should I call them) with a mathematical basis, mainly designed for primary school children, though their polyshapes could appeal to all ages.

Anyone faced with having to give talks or lectures on mathematics, or any other scientific theme, might do well to get hold of Peter Kenny's *A Handbook of Public Speaking for Scientists and Engineers* (Adam Hilger Ltd, Bristol).

Now for the update on some previous columns. On April 11, I asked what number I was assigned in a race where the sum of the numbers less than mine was the same as the sum of the numbers greater than

mine. I was foolish enough to suggest that you would probably need a micro to check that the number 1729 is the least such, and in fact many of you did this using a micro. But as Denis Ward of Reigate pointed out, since there are only 12 numbers whose cubes are less than 1729, by examining all sums of pairs from this list which might conceivably produce an example smaller than 1729, it is a simple matter to verify that there is in fact none less than Ramanujan's number.

Mr Ward went on in fine style to dispose of another problem I posed, namely to find a number which cannot be expressed as a sum of fewer than 19 fourth powers. The answer is 79, as you can easily verify for yourself. (A class of elementary number theorists says that every number can be expressed as a sum of 19 fourth powers — at least if the number has fewer than 1400 digits.)

field being between 100 and 1,000, with numbers assigned consecutively starting from 1. My number was 204, with a total field of 288 runners, a result many readers found, and one which requires only elementary school algebra.

The piece on sums of squares, cubes, etc. on April 26 generated a larger postbag than usual. I mentioned Ramanujan's observation that the number 1729 is the smallest which can be expressed as a sum of two cubes in two different ways. These are:

$$1729 = 12^3 + 1^3 = 10^3 + 9^3$$

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Also in answer to a problem posed in that column, the only two usually star which can be expressed as a sum of fewer than 9 cubes are 23 and 239; all other numbers can be written as the sum of 8 cubes.

Many readers used a micro to try to find four numbers A, B, C, D such that:

$$A^2 + B^2 = C^2 + D^2$$

I hinted that there were such numbers below 100, and this information can be exploited to speed up an otherwise horrendously time-consuming search, as several of you discovered. Mrs R. Ray of Liverpool went one better. Without the aid of a micro she finally managed to come up with the numbers 59, 153, 133, 134 which satisfy the stated requirements.

Going back even further, on March 14, I wrote about negadecimals, numbers, using negative number bases and mentioned that I thought that negative base arithmetic had been considered for computer design, providing as it does the advantage of an arithmetic where there is no need for a negative sign.

Professor W. M. Turski, visiting Imperial College London, wrote to tell me that a computer was actually built which used "−2" base numbers both in the arithmetic and in the memory addressing. It was the UMC-1, a 16-bit digital computer of the late 1950s and early 1960s, of which several dozen were made and installed. Does anyone know of any other early computers using non-standard kinds of arithmetic?



Thinking big — but is Qwerty on the way out?

The state of Oregon has turned to the rational keyboard. Christopher Reed reports from San Francisco

Dvorak's new world

AFTER more than 100 years since its invention the old Qwerty typewriter keyboard may be finally yielding to a more rational system.

Federal and local governments and businesses in the US are increasingly, if cautiously, trying out a keyboard which can boost speed and efficiency by 20 per cent or more. "One year ago I would say the chief reaction was resistance. Now the interest," says Mrs Virginia Russell, president of the Dvorak International Federation, sponsors of the rational keyboard invented by August Dvorak and approved by the American National Standards Institute in Washington.

Dvorak, who died in 1975, devoted his life to his keyboard, but never saw it gain popularity. As a pioneer in ergonomics — the study of man-machine relationships — he had campaigned against the awkwardness and slowness of Qwerty as the traditional line-up is known from the first six letters on English-language keyboards.

It was actually designed deliberately slow because keys jammed in early machines if typists neared their top speeds. Electronic keyboards may now have ruled out jamming, but they cannot alone overcome what is for many typists a deep reluctance to change.

The advent of desk-top computers and software with business applications at executive level have propelled many businessmen and women to the keyboard for the first time. Those who have heard of Dvorak — and Mrs Russell believes alerting them is her first priority — have considered learning it instead of Qwerty. Those who have hesitated to begin with Qwerty may also be more impressed by a Dvorak-accomplished secretary, the reasoning goes.

Organisations which have decided on larger scale adoption of Dvorak include the nationwide directory assistance telephone service with 11,000 Dvorak terminals, and the US Department of Agriculture. Others who have agreed in principle and are conducting experiments or making gradual switch-overs, are Oregon state and nine other federal departments. In business, Ford Motors have begun a project and DEC, second only to IBM in making business computers, now produces a Dvorak model. Insurance companies and other large manufacturers are also interested.

Unlike Qwerty, where the most frequent English letters, E, T, O, A, N, I, are spread all over the board, Dvorak puts them all in the middle, the vowels on the left and the consonants on the right. The middle row reads: A, O, E, U, I, D, H, T, N, S. With Qwerty, left-handers have one of their fingers on the "Q" key, while the left hand does 80 per cent of the work Dvorak restores it to 50-50.

Switching electronic boards is simple, and makers such as Keytronics and Wico are producing configurations with dual markings. Apple is making Dvorak conversion capability a standard.

A micro-chip making the switch possible at the touch of a button, has intensified interest in Dvorak, especially as it focuses many purchasers' attention on its existence for the first time. However, the problem is not so much the mechanical switch but the human one and opinions differ on how long it takes to retrain a typist.

In Oregon's government, when Dvorak was first introduced in one department in the late 1970s, it took three months to convert a typist.

beginning with only an hour in the morning and evening. Today, it takes about three weeks, says supervisor Patricia Kaplus.

Others such as Mrs Russell claim one can reach 40 words a minute, a medium to good speed for a Qwerty typist, in 18 hours of practice. Professor Richard Land of Harvard University's Instructional Laboratories says ordinary typists will increase from 40 to 60 words a minute by changing to Dvorak.

Opinions also differ on how easy it is to switch between the two. Ms Kaplus said some operators were forced to abandon Dvorak because they also had to work with Qwerty and could not maintain both.

Mrs Russell says it is like being fluent in two languages, one needs only a little time and it all comes back. For such a commonplace activity, typing has attracted scientists since Christopher Sholes laid out the Qwerty board in the 1870s. Psychologists continue to be fascinated by the fact that even an average typist can easily exceed the rate laboratory tests on human reactions would lead one to expect.

An article in the Scientific American last year (*The Skill of Typing*) noted the "paradox" of the 250 milliseconds latency between perceiving a stimulus and pressing a button should, produce a typing rate of 48 words a minute, yet skilled operators can double that. A leading hypothesis is that learning to type well causes the mental processes to overlap, thus producing the "impossible" speeds.

Sadly for the promoter of the Dvorak board, even that study was of Qwerty performance. August Dvorak was credited with noting the overlap phenomenon in 1936.

Learning to talk to the next generation

Philip Leith on the babel of computer languages

SINCE the compiler for a programming language can cost several thousand pounds in both purchase and in annual maintenance, few commercial computing departments can boast a wide range of programming languages for their own use. The problem for software houses which produce compilers and interpreters for these languages is the problem of deciding which language is going to return a profit.

Since there are so many languages available, and more arriving by the month, just how does a software house decide for which language it should choose? One tactic is to write compilers or interpreters for only well established languages — Cobol, Fortran or Basic, say — or to produce them for languages for which a large market can be foreseen. ADA, for example. But then that would be missing out on a large potential market for other less global products — Lisp or Forth for example.

these languages derive from the academic world.

It has been said that university researchers love nothing better than to invent a new programming language. Some have been successful, and fortunately have not been obscured by the many unsuccessful languages. It is comparatively easy to invent a new language, but the trouble with inventing one is that unless it is intended only for mental exercise, it is necessary to write an interpreter or compiler to prove it works in the desired manner.

Typically, one makes a prototype compiler that runs slowly and produces inefficient and inelegant (but workable) code for the computer which is handiest for the implementer to use — that is, the machine down the corridor. This, of course, does not imply that this is the machine which most of the potential users of the language would wish to use.

At this stage the project might well terminate because of the awful nature of the language or because other less onerous projects beckon. If the project continues and the language and its implementation have been successful, then there is often a need for a better quality compiler or compilers for other, more popular machines. It is at this point that commercial software houses enter the field, and with the cost of writing a compiler at around \$100,000 or so (an interpreter is usually

cheaper) they must choose judiciously.

Prolog, from the artificial intelligence camp, is one language for which an interpreter might be considered. Commerce and industry have recently eyed the language, primarily, perhaps, because logic programming has been chosen by the Japanese ICOT programme as the "missing link" uniting the various fields of computer science.

Whether or not this language will actually repay large industrial investment is another story. There are substantial criticisms. Terry Winograd, a prominent artificial intelligence researcher, has said of it: "There's a small class of problems for which this works great, and you can do beautiful demonstrations on those problems. But when you have to deal with time-sequential behaviour, like an operating system, you get away from the nice qualities of Prolog and have to use the ugly features, and you lose the advantage."

For commercial users of a language it is just such large operating system-type software which they most need to program. Will they want an interpreter for a language which can't be usefully used in many problems? Another problem is that of trying to provide one standard dialect of Prolog, since so many research teams are making extensions to it.

Another problem in deciding just which language to concentrate one's effort upon

is that there are often vested interests involved in the selling of a programming language. David Moffat, in a recent critique of Modula-2 in *SigPlan*, noticed that the fact that this process was underway. Modula-2 was devised by Niklaus Wirth (the creator of the Pascal programming language) and many people have been suggesting that Modula-2 will become the successor to Pascal; if this is so, then obviously it is a language which software houses must take seriously.

Moffat, though, claims that the language is not superior to any Pascal dialect and, in fact, is inferior in many ways to other new languages. To explain the media and marketing hype which is beginning to surround the language, Moffat points out that "all the persons who serve to gain by the spread of Modula-2 are the authors of the language. This includes all the distributors of Modula compilers and the authors of Modula books."

Not only are many traditional languages available, but there are also moves in commerce which are away from these well tried programming methodologies. One technique is to allow the eventual users to interact with computers using very high level (almost, if not, natural) languages to other new languages. To which well tried programming methodologies. One technique is to allow the eventual users to interact with computers using very high level (almost, if not, natural) languages to other new languages.

Winograd noted seeing a language designed to be used by accountants and pointed out his view: "We are going to

see a decreasing emphasis on software in the 1980s. What I mean by that is software viewed as programs written to execute sequences of instructions on computers. The important emergence in the 1980s is of a more coherent theory and understanding and collection of tools for developing all of these languages which aren't programming languages. An example of these tools are spreadsheets for small businesses.

Even ADA, the Department of Defence language, which is seen by many as the next de rigueur language is problematical. The problems arise from the severe criticisms of ADA, without these criticisms ADA might otherwise be the natural language to choose because of the substantial support and finance behind it. However, it was not so long ago that Tony Hoare, Professor of Computing at Oxford, pleaded that because of its baroque structure it should not be allowed in weapon systems and other dangerous devices. It would, he claimed, be untestable and unsafe. Such comments do not encourage confidence. If a language is prone to allowing errors, few will wish to program in it.

Overall, we might suggest the best method for deciding which language to choose is to use a pin, a list of languages and a blindfold.

Philip Leith is at the Queens University of Belfast faculty of law.

ALFA LAVAL CHEESE SYSTEMS

Among the internationally famous Alfa Laval Companies, the Cheese Group is a growing enterprise. Separate Application Centres within the Group are responsible for research, development, procurement, sales and commissioning. Due to the increase in orders and the growth of responsibility, the above Application Centre is looking for new members to join the team in the West Country of England.

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We urgently need a first class designer and the Technical Manager is looking for someone who is capable of taking projects through from conception to commercial production, while at the same time fulfilling the function of team leader to the design office, liaising with Product Managers to secure the Company's future as market leaders in the mechanisation of cheese-making.

We are looking for someone aged 25-35, graduate or equivalent in mechanical engineering, with 4 years minimum experience, preferably with a background in the food and dairy industry. The wide range of product responsibility and research and development work will provide an interesting and fulfilling role for someone prepared for commitment and self motivation.

A salary commensurate with qualifications and experience is offered, together with a range of other benefits.

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If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Chris Dash on 0835-27616 or write to 10 Oxford Road, Yeovil, Somerset, for an Application Form.

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Applications should be made in writing, in the first instance to Mr. J. D. Westerman, Personnel Manager, Smiths Industries Aerospace and Defence Systems Limited, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL52 4SF.

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Application by letter with C.V. before 7th June, 1985 to W.S.R.A., 345 Upper Richmond Rd. West, Sheen SW14 8ND.

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The University of London Computer Centre provides batch and keyboard services to over 5,000 users in universities and research establishments throughout the United Kingdom. It is equipped with an Amdahl 470/V8 (IBM-compatible) and a Cray-1S supercomputer. Widespread access to the facilities at the Centre is provided by means of packet-switched networks.

Applications are invited for the following posts:

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The User Support Department is the main interface between users and the computing service. It provides advisory, documentation and user education services. The Department also supports a wide range of compilers, graphics and applications packages and libraries.

A Programmer Analyst is required to work with both the team providing the technical information services and the team supporting the graphics services. The work involves both technical writing connected with all user services provided by this Department and the implementation and support of graphics software. Graduates or post graduates with the relevant experience will be preferred.

Salary will be commensurate with age, relevant qualifications and experience on scales £5,800 to £12,150 (under review) plus £1,233 London Allowance.

NETWORKS & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**Systems Programmer**
(NC 85/2)

The Networks and Communications Department is responsible for communications development. To fulfil its local and national roles, the Centre is heavily involved in the development of advanced communications facilities including packet-switched networking, high-speed local networks, front-end systems and high level protocols for Open Systems Interconnection.

There is a vacancy in the Networks and Communications Department which is responsible for these activities. Candidates should have proven ability as systems programmers on small or large machines. Communications experience, whilst obviously desirable, is not essential as training would be available for a capable and enthusiastic applicant.

The salary offered will depend on age, relevant qualifications and experience within the range £2,520 to £14,925 (under review) plus London Allowance of £1,233.

Applications for the above two posts will close three weeks after publication of this advertisement

Further details and application forms are available from the Deputy Secretary, ULCC, 20 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1DZ. Telephone 01-405 8400

Sheffield City Polytechnic**COMPUTER SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

We are rapidly expanding our activities over the whole institution and have just taken delivery of two Prime Mini-computers (9750 & 9850 - running PRIMOS) to add to our IBM 4341 (VM/CMS) which support over 250 terminals. In addition we are about to install a similarly large number of micro-computers across the Polytechnic. Existing and challenging opportunities are available for staff to join us to meet these demands and to participate in the creation of a service where staff will be based with the users on every Polytechnic site. We have 3 SENIOR POSTS AVAILABLE - SALARY WITHIN THE RANGE £2,527 to £11,025 AND 6 OTHER POSTS - SALARY WITHIN THE RANGE £2,527 to £3,114.

USER SERVICES - covers the provision of information for users on the range of services offered by the department. Computer media input and output co-ordinated and user documentation is prepared and distributed. A data entry service is run.

COMPUTER INFORMATION OFFICER USER SERVICES

Sc5/6 £7,524-£9,114

This post is the head of this key section. In addition to managing all the above services this person will be responsible for budgeting, ordering, invoicing and maintaining the equipment inventory. Vacancy No. A56/85.

SYSTEMS SUPPORT - provides software support for the PRIME and IBM computers and for various micro-computers and networks. Applicants should possess a sound knowledge of computing, be self-motivated and have good interpersonal communication skills.

SENIOR PROGRAMMER/ANALYST SYSTEMS SUPPORT

Sc1/2 £9,477-£11,025

The main duties of this post will be in the area of data communications. The interconnectability of the range of Polytechnic equipment is of ongoing concern. Micro-computers are being integrated into the Polytechnic network, as well as being Local Area Networks. The post holder will be expected to be familiar with the range of networks and communications products available and be able to make recommendations on the appropriate topology to install. Vacancy No. A56/85.

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Applicants should have at least two years' experience as an IBM Assembler programmer or in a technical support role for PRIME or IBM operating systems and compilers. Experience with microcomputers and networks would be a distinct advantage. Applicants should also possess sound technical knowledge of computing and have fluency in at least one of FORTRAN, Pascal or BASIC. The ability to communicate advice to users, who themselves have widely varying technical knowledge, is essential. Knowledge of areas such as Computer Aided Design, Business-related application, Statistical Packages, Graphics, Microcomputers and Computer Assisted Learning would be an advantage.

SENIOR ANALYST/ADVISER TEACHING APPLICATIONS

Sc1/2 £9,477-£11,025

Three years experience in computing is looked for including some analysis work. Ability to take on responsibility, supervise junior staff and to act on one's own initiative is important. Vacancy No. A57/85.

ANALYST/ADVISER TEACHING APPLICATIONS

Sc5/6 £7,524-£9,114

Normally at least two years of applications programming and advisory work is looked for. In certain circumstances where this experience is lacking a post may be offered at Programmer (Sc 4 £5,555-£7,359) or Trainee Programmer level (Sc 3 £3,555-£5,359), with chance of progression. Vacancy No. A58/85.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER DETAILS FOR ALL THE ABOVE POSTS FROM THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, SHEFFIELD CITY POLYTECHNIC, HALFORD HOUSE, FITZALAN SQUARE, SHEFFIELD S1 2BS. TEL: 20611, EXT. 235. CLOSING DATE: TEL: 20611.

Sheffield City Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Leicester Polytechnic**SCHOOL OF ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING****Principal Lecturer in Digital Communication Systems** (Post No. 422)

Salary £13,095 - £14,580 (bar) - £16,467 per annum (pay award pending)

Applications are invited for this important post from candidates who want to develop a teaching career on the general area of digital communications systems with Information Technology as an important theme. Significant industrial and/or research experience in one or more of the following areas would be advantageous:

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- data communications
- the technology of office systems
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- transmission systems

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Applications are invited for the above post from candidates who want to develop a teaching career in Information Technology, with particular reference to computer networks.

A degree in Electronic Engineering or Computer Science is essential and some experience of research, development, design, installation and/or operation of computer network systems is desirable.

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Application forms and further details for the above posts available from the Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, PO Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel: (0533) 551551 ext. 2303.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY: Applications are welcome from suitably qualified and/or experienced people regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, sex, marital status or disability.

ilea Inner London Education Authority**Minicomputing Manager**

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ILECC - Inner London Educational Computing Centre, John Ruskin Street, London SE1 0PQ

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The successful candidate will be expected to have a proven record as a programmer and to have had experience of leading a team in project management in the development of software. The ability to contribute to the development of the support services provided by ILECC in step with developments in the technology is essential. Teaching / lecturing experience is not necessary but a positive interest in the application of computing and Information Technology in further education is essential.

This job is suitable for job-sharing.

Application forms and further details from Personnel Services Division (EO/Estal 15) Room 366, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB, (please enclose an SAE). Closing date is Friday, 14th June 1985.

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Because of our overseas work, the ability to communicate fluently in French and other foreign languages would be an advantage.

Please write, quoting Ref IE85/1, giving details of qualifications, experience and current salary, to: Tom Henry, Personnel Director,

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Further details and application forms available from the Establishment Administrator, The Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ. Tel: (01273) 596231, ext. 270. Closing date 29th June 1985.

Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology

POST NO. 897806

A vacancy exists for a SENIOR LECTURER in Computing.

Applicants having recent industrial/business experience in systems analysis will be particularly considered.

Further details and application forms from Administrative Officer (Computing), Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology, Grafton Place, Gloucester GL1 2RY, are please.

TO THE DIRECTOR OF OVERSEAS OPERATIONS

The Director of Overseas Operations of this major charity requires an experienced secretary who is adaptable and flexible, and will enjoy being involved in the vital work of this busy department. You will provide secretarial support to the Director and others within the Overseas Division, as well as welcoming visitors and dealing with the Director's telephone calls.

You will need at least 2 1/2 years secretarial experience, accurate audio typing to minimum of 50 wpm, shorthand, and a basic knowledge of French or Spanish would be advantageous.

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Help the Aged

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Replies which will be treated in the strictest confidence, should be sent to W. J. Wilson at the address stated giving details of qualifications and experience etc.

Building Design Partnership,
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Telephone: 061-834 8441.

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COMPUTER STAFF

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Applications should be sent to: The Director of Development Studies, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ. Tel: (01273) 596231, ext. 270. Closing date 29th June 1985.

Particulars and application forms available from the Establishment Administrator, The Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ. Tel: (01273) 596231, ext. 270. Closing date 29th June 1985.

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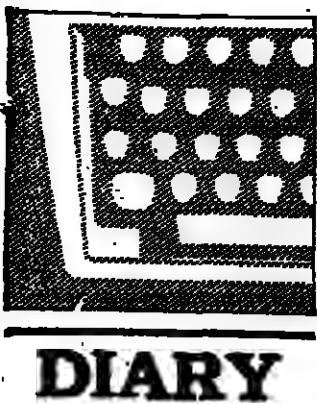
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DIARY

THE Conservative Women's Conference was so soothing to the nerves — and the nerves needed soothing after the triple security checks involving internal machines which squealed over your hunch of keys. It was a world of soft smiles where conflict was banished and the rhythms of jingoism and the Church of England crept into the speeches.

"Our present Prime Minister," declared Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, "has sounded forth the trumpet which shall never, never retreat. The nearest thing to a crown on the platform came when Edward Currie MP made a grand entrance in a drop-waisted, sugar-pink dress.

As for the issues, Mrs Angela Browning from Tiverton quoted Norman Tebbit: "It's no good being a cross-patch of cornflakes if you've got a skull and crossbones on the front." The image was the thing to catch the floating voter. "Let's rip the top off the cornflakes, tip out the contents of the packet with Dr Owen's smile on it and jolly well stamp on it." So that's who Norman Tebbit, Mrs Browning admitted she was being unkind, but they made an exception and loved it.

The indulgent smile on the chairwoman's face didn't even crack when the fierce Dr Leah Hertz who was wearing trousers and is reputed to own an underground swimming pool, suggested you could win an election without men. "Fifty two per cent of the population are women," she pointed out. That inflamed a lady from the New Forest to say she "worked her butt off for the party" and to utter the words "GCHQ" and "Belgrano."

It was getting hard to work out which speaker was for and which against but it didn't matter anyway: many of the ladies were wandering out to lunch as the vote was taken.

Mrs Thatcher came on to a tumult which drowned her latest theme music: Sir William Walton's Coronation Ode, which a few extra forwards thought a bit strong, especially as she was due to see the Queen last night.

The kindergarten content — "Let me deal with what I call money matters... President Reagan wants a system which destroys those terrible weapons before they destroy people" — was laced with digs at the familiar targets. People in the arts: "articulate, if not accurate"; academics: "you and I come by road or rail, but economists travel on infrastructure"; broadcasters: "that programme in the morning".

There was a Freudian slip where she said proposed new laws on processions applied to professions. Freedom was being entrenched in Britain, she declared before her two minute standing ovation and the chairman's pledge that the congregation were all full backs; and outside the Barbican Centre, as it proved to be the police everywhere. Come on next year — in a strange way, it's food for the soul.

FROM the same political table, a late evening — in the Diary Reminiscence stakes! Mrs Ann Winterton, Tory MP for Congleton, weighed in this week with a few well-chosen words of the judge who made a girl under 16 a ward of court and then authorised abortion and contraception for her. "It makes one wonder whether parents are responsible for their children under 16 or not," she said sagely, and was widely quoted. Her husband Nicholas, an established member of the Tory family, was expected to make some of the running but has so far, surprisingly, failed to show. At the moment Peter Brown, the cork-like Tory from Leicester East, seems to be galloping away with it: three entries, please, to frustrate his perverse ambitions!

FROM Texas, home of bad taste, comes the latest car sticker: "Child abuse begins with circumcision." For explanation, read a leaflet from the Circumcision Prevention Society of Houston: "Routine" circumcision has underlined caused all the violence in America — yes, that's right. It has produced the mental community, the homicidal psychopaths, the offenders, the child abusers and homosexual deviancy, not to mention rebellion, single parent motherhood and divorce. For only \$5 you can join the campaign to restore human rights to foreskin." In human rights of such cavalier allusions, 85 per cent of US infant males still get docked.

Stephen Cook

Too much inflation bursts Government bubbles

COMMENTARY

Hugo Young



THE LARGEST political danger the Government faces is posed not by its rebels or even, at the moment, by the increasing self-confidence of the opposition parties. The Conservative Party needs to be steered against itself, as Mrs Thatcher attempted to do yesterday. It may yet need to be steered even more against the great unemployment, the rising rate of inflation.

A huge amount of the Government's political capital is invested in a low inflation rate. Last week's figure showed a sharp rise to 8.9 per cent. This was both bigger and earlier than ministers had predicted. They always knew there was going to be an increase. But the original ceiling figure of 6 per cent has slipped up through 7 to murmurings of at least 8.

They believe it will come down. The outline indicators which enable a judgment to be made about prices evidently suggest as much. But the fall will not be as precipitate as the rise, and there is uncertainty about when it will occur.

Pay rises, moreover, seem to be speeding up. Average earnings are now rising at a

rate of more than 9 per cent. They are a dark cloud on the horizon of politics. They presage exactly what the Government can least afford to see happen, if it is to preserve its greatest claim to economic credibility. Yet wage inflation is also something against which it has left itself almost studiously defenceless.

Its policy is a jarringly contradiction. A significant part of the rise derives directly from the prevailing economic philosophy, which ordains, quite properly for free marketeers, that pay should have some connection with output and profits. Many successful firms are now making large profits, and the workers have got the message.

According to the latest CBI survey 23 per cent of companies say that the reason wages are going up is profits. Five years ago that figure was only 10 per cent. The unions may have been cowed, and unemployment may still be colossal, but the fact that the work is only being done at the rate of the rising principles of modern Conservatism when they demand a decent slice of the action when their companies succeed: and when they see the immense sums drop-

ping into the pockets of directors hooked into performance-related bonuses.

There is, however, a competing thrust of Tory thinking which says that, while particular wage rises may be justified, wage rises in general are bad. This was not always the case. For the first year or so, the new orthodoxy preached by Thatcherism said that wage settlements did not matter. The Government did not need to have an attitude towards them. Strict monetary control would ensure, by a subtle mechanistic process, that they would descend to a satisfactory level in accordance with sharply lowered output from the Bank of England's printing press.

This position, of course, has undergone substantial change. Wage levels, as settled by the collective bargaining process, now matter very much indeed. To gov-

ernment they cannot be a matter of indifference. They feed through into competitiveness, into prices, into the fate of the entire economic strategy.

But, in particular, pay rises have a direct effect on unemployment. Government thinking must bless the link between profits and earnings. But it also betrays an increasingly fevered anxiety about the link between earnings and jobs. This is not the universal opinion. As with economists, so with ministers: and Mr John Biffen, for example, has always denied that there is any simple connection between the two.

The orthodoxy, however, now says otherwise. The recent white paper on Employment, the complete distillation of current government wisdom on the subject, spells it out categorically. "The biggest sufferers from excessive wage rises are the

unemployed... employment could increase considerably if people accepted slightly lower earnings growth."

In January, an entire Treasury paper was devoted to establishing the relationship. Recession and higher unemployment have been accompanied by a rise in real earnings of nearly 10 per cent since 1979.

In the white paper, this fact is printed in heavy black type. The emphasis is appropriately funeral. For although the coalition of the have-nots in 1983, it could be a different story next time round if the indicators

of inflation are then as bad as those of unemployment.

Talking around Whitehall, one discovers a very Whitehall response. It shows that the mandarins have not had every trace of heresy knocked out of them by the Conservative thought-police. The words "incomes policy" can be heard discreetly crossing the lips of civil servants who are at present allied with the intellectually distasteful task of defending a policy which says (a) unemployment is the curse of our time, (b) wages have a decisive effect on jobs, but (c) we have no policy for wages.

The policy is to utter the occasional cautionary bleat. Ministers have so far had the grace to eschew full-blooded exhortation: knowing perhaps that one certain consequence of this Government's abrasive style has been to eliminate such consensual appeals from their armoury.

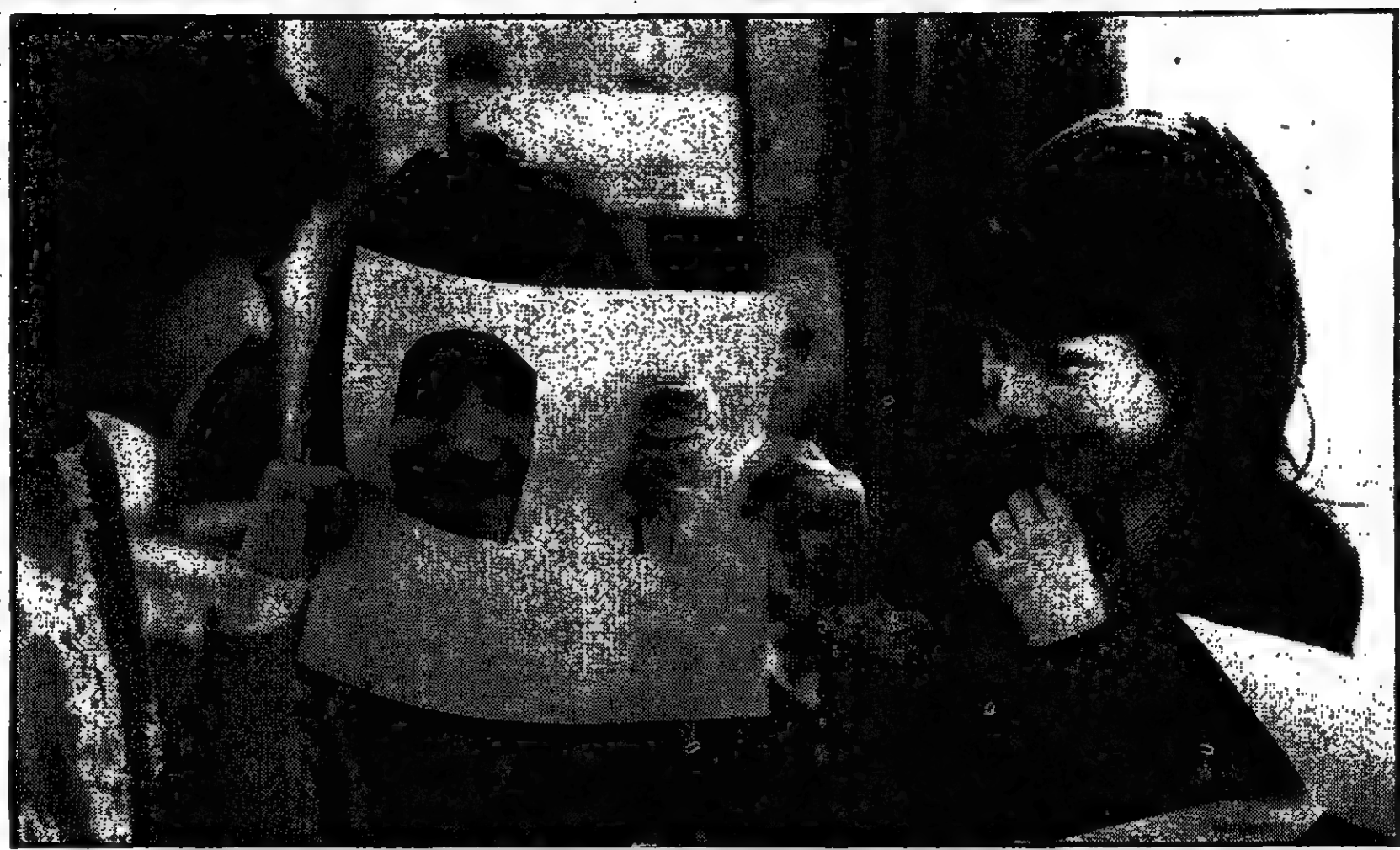
The only policy consistent with their thinking, in fact, completes the circle of contradiction. It would be to take action to damp down growth and therefore profits and expectations — and jobs. Yet, of all the gestures which the Tory party from left to right would be united

in opposing, this, the killing off of the recovery, would be the most completely unacceptable.

The mandarins know very well that an incomes policy is out of the question. Too many ministers have uttered too many words of ridicule and condemnation to leave open any such possibility. The machinery of pay control, indeed, is the cent symbol of past error which this Government is dedicated to wiping away.

That machinery is easily ridiculed. Its ultimate failure, both under Heath and under Callaghan, entirely overshadows the success it had for a while. But it is invariably criticised on the premise that the free market in wages is infinitely superior: an effortless and pain-free return to the natural order.

For quite a few years, if you forget about unemployment, it worked. The Government did not suffer on the incomes question. In fact it gained, as those in work felt richer. It is now, however, that painful and arbitrary though an incomes policy may be, a non-policy is just as full of anguish and contradiction — with just as much potential for political calamity.



Children at one of Bradford's schools (above); Mohammed Ajeeb, the city's new Lord Mayor (right)

Harold Jackson explores the intractable problems of schooling in multi-racial Bradford

The melting pot that won't melt

there was growing restiveness over a system which ensured that a significant number of children would spend their school careers as a permanent minority. It was also argued that busineering, a substitution of an unacceptable effort at social engineering. That and the anti-discrimination provisions of the Race Relations Act put paid to the scheme.

The pattern of local settlement then became a critical factor. Precision is hard to achieve, but roughly a seventh of the city's 450,000 people now come from families with an immigrant head of household. About 14,500 of them are from Ireland, Eastern and Western Europe, or from parts of the world not regarded as significant in this debate. The rest are overwhelmingly from Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh.

The original guest workers were obliged to take the only housing they could afford — the crumbling, run-down stock of the inner city from which the white population was departing. That was naturally where their fellows clustered, later and Asians are now densely concentrated in four of the city's wards. In the University division (which the Lord Mayor represents and where Mr Honeyford's school lies), they form more than two-thirds of the population. If only school-age children are counted, however, the proportion reaches 90 per cent.

The new mayor, is testifying to the political activism of Bradford's Asian citizens. Their voting record means that, quite apart from any broad issues of social justice, there are cogent practical reasons to consider their welfare. Inevitably, this surge in Asian influence has been accompanied by a parallel "British" reaction. There is no question that Mr Honeyford's views have touched many exposed nerves.

This sensitivity ensures that even the most minor issues can be blown up into a row or a crisis. In a sense, so long as the rumpus remains verbal, it acts as a

handy pressure valve for the frustrations and uncertainties of a changing society. But it also reflects the outside world a picture of near-Maoist permanent revolution. In reality the "crises" are often nine-day wonders.

Last year, for example, the city appeared to be in an uproar over two issues — whether Muslim children should be able to get religiously acceptable meat in their school lunch, and whether there would be a mass of resignations and premature retirements among outraged head teachers who objected to the draconian rules of the Education Committee.

The principal campaigner against the introduction of halal meat, Mrs Katherine Reynolds, ran on the issue in the local council elections. In a total vote of 4,761 in the Odsal ward she came a poor third, with 338 or 17.5 per cent. Virtually all interest in the issue now seems to have evaporated and halal meat is served in local schools as a matter of routine. Nor, in spite of the reportedly imminent resignation of 41 heads, has there been the slightest blip in the statistical pattern of retirements and resignations.

It does not, of course, mean that Bradford has no problem. It means only that the issue is so complex and intractable that it is often reduced to caricature. It is then further tangled in such fundamentals as the right of free speech, which Mr Honeyford and his supporters have raised. He has argued that the action against him is an assault on his right to say what he thinks. For the local administration, however, Mr Honeyford is covered by the judicial precept that there is no inalienable right to shout "Fire" in a crowded theatre.

His school, like most others in the Marnham area, has an overwhelming proportion of Asian pupils. The manner of his arguments as much as the content sent ripples of apprehension through many of the parents. In one of his Salisbury Review articles he mentioned "a volatile Sikh whose anti-white prejudice was apparent to everyone" who demanded the use of Indian languages in school instruction. "Now this is, quite simply, a prescription for linguistic chaos in the classroom," Mr Honeyford commented.

Certainly it is: but not in Bradford. English is the language of instruction throughout the system so there is no practical foundation for the headmaster's contention that such a policy "would seriously impede the acquisition of fluent English by Asian children." In fact, the local curriculum has only been expanded to include Punjabi, Urdu, and Gujarati as foreign languages — along with French, German and the rest.

That came as a result of local demand, amply demonstrated by the mushroom growth of what were politely known as "supplementary schools," at which children were taught their parents' mother tongue, often by amateur teachers.

The real issue bedevilling the Bradford school system is quite simply a distaste for alien cultures — an aversion shared by all communities. It usually emerges in public as a row about white attitudes but there are at least as many tensions between, for example, Hindus and Muslims, West Indians and Pakistanis, Sikhs and Hindus, or almost any other possible permutation.

schools. The Council of Mosques agitated for a change of policy and, since there is no cost difference in providing halal meat, there was really no reason why it shouldn't go on the menu.

In a fast changing community, where the most rapid growth is among the inner city residents of Asian ancestry, the authority plainly has to act.

The official policy was laid out in a statement sent to all head teachers in November 1982. "Bradford has both a multi-racial and multi-cultural population," it declared, "and all sections of the community have an equal right to the maintenance of their distinctive identities and loyalties of culture, language, religion, and custom."

However, with two-thirds of the local budget going into the schools, it was inevitable that they should become the battleground for the political and social reaction to the arrival of a new population in a declining economy. Even so, attempts to exploit the issue by such groups as the British National Party have been pretty unsuccessful and there is some objective support for the contention by local officials that the climate within the schools themselves is overwhelmingly peaceful.

Right next to Mr Honeyford's school, sharing the same playground, is another which specialises in teaching English to 90 Asian children between 7 and 13. It is part of a programme under which new arrivals and others who have no command of English receive an intense course for up to two years. Its head, Mr Alex Fellowes, has the diametrically opposite perception to Mr Honeyford's and has taken public issue with him.

"I think the Bradford policy memorandum was a great step in the right direction," he said in an interview. "In this whole area of anti-racist education I think it is important that local authorities should provide real leadership. And there is a lot of racism in Bradford. Some of our kids get abused in the

have fallen down badly on the specifics of the schools budget.

At the moment the director of educational services Mr Richard Knight, is trying to reconcile a Conservative revenue plan with a Labour capital programme, both passed with the help of a wavering Alliance vote but about £2.5 million adrift from one another. Nothing constructive is happening in the council chamber because each side is hoping for a clear-cut victory in next year's elections. In the meantime the impasse is affecting the schools.

Unlike almost every other authority in the country, Bradford has a pressing need for more inner city places. Dependents of the existing Asian inhabitants continue to arrive in significant numbers and there is a high birth-rate within the community.

The official estimate is that there will be some 12,000 more Asian school children by 1990 — a dozen or so schools' full. The pressure on the inner city schools is already near breaking point and they are certainly not designed to handle it. Of the 77 schools affected, 51 are more than 60 years old. Forty of the buildings went up when Queen Victoria was still on the throne. According to the teachers' union, three Bradford schools had to be evacuated in the past two years because of roof collapses.

When there is such pressure simply to house the growing school population, complaints of inadequate materials and staffing tend to get short shrift.

Mr John Howarth, a teacher at an upper school, remarked that "there is very little Bradford money spent on multi-cultural education". He noted that the council had said it wanted more Asian teachers but was unwilling to fund them while they attained the appropriate English qualifications.

Certainly a browse through education committee minutes and other official documents shows a deep-seated obsession with what is known as Section 11 money — grants from central government under the terms of the 1966 Local Government Act — to meet the costs of providing for the "special needs of immigrants." Whitehall, for example, currently meets the cost of 220 Bradford teachers.

Plainly, in a period of severe budget cutting — Bradford's has been slashed by £25 million — everyone has to feel the pain. The education service has had to bear its share but there is a feeling among some activists that the impact is not being evenly distributed. They argue that the overcrowded inner city schools, with their high Asian enrolment, are suffering effective discrimination.

It is a nearly impossible dilemma for local officials. In the Bradford system parents have a free choice of school and the way the local bus network is planned makes attendance possible almost anywhere in the city. It would be quite feasible for Manningham children to go to a less crowded suburban school. But when this has been raised there have been immediate suspicions among Asian parents but this is simply the old-style busing under a new guise.

As one baffled administrator commented: "At the end of the day you are simply up against human nature. The Asians don't want to assimilate, and there's no reason on earth why they should. But then the whites get annoyed and ask why the immigrants can't accept the standards of the host community. The trouble then is that no one can ever say what standards are supposed to be observed."

At the end of it all — and far more telling than the insults and the graffiti — is the experience of the pupils when they find themselves in their multi-cultural classrooms. Of those who left Bradford's schools as fifth formers in 1983, one-third of the whites had secured a job within three months. Of those defined as black, only one in 14 had managed to do so. No one has come up with an answer to that.

D. M. Thomas reviews the Freud-Fliess correspondence and the vulnerabilities they reveal

The astrologer and the astronomer

"I AM actually not at all a man of science, not an observer, not an experimenter, not a thinker. I am by temperament nothing but a conquistador — an adventurer." So Freud confided to his friend Fliess, in the first few weeks of the twentieth century, and so the letters themselves eloquently confirm.

In the wake of every conquistador come the administrators, turning quest into conquest, and speculation into profitable legal currency. In Freud's case, they are of course the armies of psychoanalysis administering Freudian law to the tickle-minds of western civilisation. Our view of Freud is largely determined by what they have made of his explorations, and also by his own increasing rigidity, exemplified by his intolerance of wayward spirits like Jung and Adler.

The letters to Fliess are an intimate revelation of the years of greatest struggle and discovery: from the first tentative fumbling (including an exaggerated belief in the destructive effect of masturbation and castration) to his masterpiece, *Interpretation of Dreams*.

The still obscure, and often reviled, conquistador was not primarily interested in fame or wealth, but rather in pursuing a beautiful vision. The conquistador's vision, the English reader Keats's metaphor for a poet, the "wild surmise" of Cortez. "Silent

upon a peak in Darien"; and the association is fruitful. The letters frequently show that Freud made his discoveries poetically, by intuition and metaphoric analogy, rather than logic. An excellent example is his realisation that excrement becomes money like a spendthrift poet, he lodes the rift with ore by tossing to Fliess a reference to Midas, and then links everything to do with birth, miscarriage and menstruation to the toilet via the likeness of *Abortus* (toilet in German) to *Abortus* (abortion). I wonder, incidentally, how he would have adapted his insight for non-German speakers.

His letter continues: "This is really wild. And in another place he refers to 'wild things... some of which I already surmised during the stormy first epoch of productivity.' Again we come to the 'wild surmise'." This is the language of a romantic poet rather than a sober scientist — and the quotation is aptly from Goethe's *Faust*.

Creative frenzy possessed him. Periods of euphoria alternated with profound depressions, grave doubts of the worth of what he was producing. Fliess believed most ironic — because sincerely meant — sentence in the letters is one in which Freud seems to imply that the conquistador's vision, the English reader Keats's metaphor for a poet, the "wild surmise" of Cortez. "Silent



Freud at the time of the letters

The Complete Letters of Sigmund Freud to Wilhelm Fliess 1887-1904, translated and edited by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson (Harvard, £25).

an adventurer too, but one who never stood on a peak in Darien. Fervently one might say this was because he concentrated his wild speculations on the nose instead of the penis.

An ear, nose and throat surgeon, Fliess believed treatment of the nose could affect the entire body; it could even induce abortions. He developed also theories of periodicity: the numbers 23 and 28 played vital roles in human life. Such eccentric views might well have

brought him a bestseller or two in our own half-literate times; but the friendship was unequal, that of an astrologer and an astronomer. Freud regularly complimented and flattered him, but intellectual honesty rarely allowed him to say he thought Fliess was right. He flirted with the ideas — but was never seduced.

Freud may have known, in his heart, that most of Fliess's theories were rubbish. Indeed, it is possible to see an ambiguity even in the sentence quoted above, saying that their creativity was not equal. His syntax, the sentence's form, saved him from an untruth — no doubt unconsciously.

Form was important to Freud. He had doubts about his dream-book because of a feeling for form, an appreciation of beauty in him; he thought the book's tortuous style indicated that he'd not completely mastered the material. Sublime honesty! And it was that feeling for form, coherence, which allowed Freud to discover a new world and the lack of it which made Fliess fitter away his talent.

One insight of his, however, did make a contribution to the world. Fliess believed the quality of each person, Freud was not reluctant to see it; his feelings for Fliess, he knew and acknowledged, exemplified it. With Fliess, uniquely, he was dependent and vulnerable. We should be grateful, because that

"Feminine" dependence encouraged him to reveal his natural, warm and witty personality. His tenderness for his children comes out; he enclosed poems written by his son Martin.

Fliess put an end to the friendship and the correspondence when Interpretation of Dreams appeared. Jealousy may have been the reason. The hurt to Freud lasted for many years. He probably destroyed Fliess's letters, but Marie Bonaparte managed to rescue Freud's. A selective edition was published in 1955, and his letters, some heavily cut, of the 284 written by Freud, Ann Freud's censorship was misjudged, for the complete text can only enhance her father's reputation.

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, the translator and editor, achieved notoriety by accusing Freud, in his book *The Assault on Truth*, of dishonestly suppressing his original seduction theory. One aspect of reading the Freud-Fliess letters is to make that accusation appear even less credible.

The idea of intellectual beauty which sustained him throughout his years of struggle, he may have been destroyed by any tampering with the truth as he saw it. It would have been like Einstein producing spurious formulae to arrive at the Theory of Relativity, or Cortez, sitting at home in Spain, pretending to have seen the Pacific.



A new Ruskin

David Piper on a notable reappraisal

John Ruskin: The Early Years, 1819-1853, by Tim Hilton (Yale, £12.95).

be interpreted as in part autobiographical.

This volume is the first of two, and takes Ruskin on up to his fortieth year. Though Ruskin's achievement thus far would have satisfied most people for a life-time's career, another 40 years still ahead, and these are not only the years of the famous liberal case brought by Whistler, of the much discussed connection with Rembrandt, of the escalating mental breakdowns, but for long periods, of even more intense literary production.

Contrary to recorded opinion, Tim Hilton states a firm belief that "Ruskin was a better man, in the years after 1860" — for Hilton, *Fora Clavigera*, the monthly didactic letter issued between 1870 and 1884, now neglected, is Ruskin's masterpiece.

Meanwhile, the slow modulation of Ruskin's opinions in the five volumes of *Modern Painters*, in the *Seven Lamps of Architecture* and the *Stones of Venice* have been charted, and a profound dedication, concern for the enlightenment of the working classes in the Working Men's College is clarified. But though his opinions and judgments shifted, and a profound pessimism gradually accumulated, the driving force, that passionate concern for human happiness, still persists to illuminate ever again the path of the flawed and erratic genius. Tim Hilton shows his heart and all yet in the showing compels the reader's fascination, compassion and admiration.

This first volume is a formidable achievement. A critic may quibble here and there, thus, for instance, while the close relationship of Ruskin with his father is vividly accounted, that with his mother is rather lost from sight (both mother and father are still alive, members of the 40-year-old son, at the close of this volume). The author's prose initially can be disconcerting, in sentences of almost staccato brevity. This could be a serious criticism, the concentration of effort in distilling essence from such copious source material, and also of reluctance to vie with Ruskin's own, and uniquely brilliant, mastery of prose as subtly rich and colorful as the completion of the whole project are good.

There is, however, at least one passage of Hilton's own, half a page about carriage travel in France, that lingered in my mind with pleasure for a whole evening, and the narrative flow in general seems markedly as the book progresses. The auguries for the completion of the whole project are good.

Not so piano

by John Carvel

Westminster Blues, by Julian Critchley (Elm Tree Books, £7.95).

JULIAN CRITCHLEY is a member of the new Conservative group of wet Centrist MPs who has specialised for so long at being offside that the limelight no longer seems to bother him. For this reason, his description of the horrors of sharing a table with Mrs Thatcher "doing her Penelope Keith bit" in the Members Dining Room will not cause the sensation which would inevitably follow if it had been penned by any of his colleagues.

Mr Critchley has passed the thresholds of caution. In this elegant concoction of memoir and malice, he tells us, for example: "The grander sort of Tory, faced with a tiresome woman, has long swapped her for another; but here it has been Mrs Thatcher who has been doing the swapping. Or again: Mrs Thatcher has views, many of which are unpalatable, and, in consequence, she is obliged to shout." He describes Mr Gordon Reece, the PM's PR man, as "a magician who powers include... it has been reported, the ability to make the Prime Minister laugh."

We do get the picture, Mr Critchley, who voted for Mrs Thatcher, who has won the leadership, has a sophisticated line in rudeness which makes this book very good fun to read. It also brings to a wider audience his association with the Tory, notably with Michael Heseltine, an undergraduate buddy at Oxford.

Critchley and Heseltine were middle-class young Tories who were not allowed advancement in the university. Critchley, dominated by aristocrats from a college called Christ Church, they formed a rival "Blue Ribbon Club," went to speaking classes and toured Oxfordshire, or Critchley's Vespa scooter to practice their oratory at village meetings.

In later life Heseltine hired and then unceremoniously fired Critchley as the author of one of his *Haymarket Press* magazines. Critchley writes: "It was the most humiliating period of my life. In just two years I had lost my seat, my job and my oldest friend. My wife and I were obliged to sell our flat back to Michael [at the price we had paid for it 15 months previously]."

While Mr Heseltine, Mrs Thatcher and others, overcame their middle class origins, Critchley remained a Tory party from the patrician ranks. Critchley never quite learned the do's and don'ts. He was featured (in a Heseltine magazine) wearing a suit and tie, and a Tory party member complained a Tory party to the 1922 committee. "Are you hard up?" enquired chief whip Martin Redmayne.

So Critchley, who aspired to greatness but was accused by the once-witty Patricia Jenkin of the sins of levitas, was edged into the role of jester and critic. Disclosure five years ago that he was the author of an anonymous attack on Mrs Thatcher in *The Observer* ("didactic, tart and obstinate") earned him the tag from John Junor in the *Sunday Express* that he was only fit to be "second pianist in a whorehouse." As the jacket illustration suggests, this was to have been the title of this book until the publishers changed their minds.

Critchley gives advice to younger Tory MPs who want to rise further than he did. "In order to succeed in our party the backbencher must be as wise as a dove and as innocent as a serpent. ... Not to be a monetarist in today's party is to suffer from a severe handicap. It is the political equivalent of being young, black, and unemployed. He should model himself either upon Mr John Stanley or Mr Nigel Lawson."

Mr Critchley's sour grapes make a fine vintage.

In cloud-cuckoo land

Christopher Wordsworth reviews the week's new fiction

If George's heart is too human for the job, another organ is too traitorously restless, so that between his carnivorous masochistic exultation in the throes of being unenthusiastically flattered with a bunch of seaweed by the visiting savant — and bright bird-of-passage Sophie things go badly amiss, not to say Amis.

AS a bird's-eye view of Cloud Cuckoo Land, Aristophanes might heartily approve of *The Island of Cranes* by Vassily Aksyonov, whose novel *The Burn* bubbled with such disrespectful love for his roots that it underlined the special tragedy of exile for any Russian.

The same aura of confusion, suspicion, hilarity, the same unbelieved knots, pervade this latest book as the dreamers dream their dreams of a new and better world while the old systems grind on to the final fiasco. *Crane* is a kind of *Black Sea* Taiwan, where capitalism thrives (but don't rely overmuch on the West and the Cold War) and the rich and the poor are in a state of civil war. Among scores of rival political parties, the idea of the Common Fate wants reunion with the motherland in a

Banana Cat, by Christopher Hood (Secker & Warburg, £2.95).

The Island of Cranes, by Vassily Aksyonov, trans. Michael Heim (Hutchinson, £10.95).

Hannie Richards, by Hilary Bailey (Virago, £5.95).

Something to Be Desired, by Thomas McGuane (Secker, £2.95).

Le Chien Couchant, by Francis Sagan, trans. C. J. Richards (W. H. Allen, £2.95).

spirit of give and take, an expectation soon doused when the paratroopers arrive in Simferopol.

The Fools-paradise set-up is brilliantly described and peopled, the crazies and masochists of free enterprise being almost epitomes of the totalitarian model, with brilliant diversions to Paris or Moscow as love and the security forces dictate, the intellectual playboy hero fondly imagining he is there on a welcome home-furlough mission. *Crane* — of a kind — survives in an open boat, but the rich and pointed entertainment offers few concessions to complacency.

The entertainment is very nicely sustained in Hannie

Richards which has a sharp to quogue scampering through it in the notion that it was high time for women to gatecrash those two precious preserves of the other sex, the world of Clubland and the late-night romantic adventure in the steps of Buchan, Charteris & Co.

Strapping red-head nannie, wife, mother, lover, international smuggler, with heavy overtones and a hypochondria mother to cope with, is as handy with a hair spray in violent emergencies as Bull-dog Drummond used to be with his ammonia-filled water pistol, and elegantly devastating with kicks to the crutch.

The ladies of the Hope Club are agog for her latest adventure when she returns from shepherding a boy-Messiah through war-torn Chad or restoring a Caribbean island to its rightful owners. And the time comes in her own affairs when she is grateful for a strong sisterly shoulder to lean on.

Opening with a failed father-and-son idyll in the wide open spaces of Montana, and a cat-and-dog crisis between the divorced parents, the novel culminates in a booby reconciliation and a screamed declaration of adultery with the dead best friend when the

priest is standing by to marry them. Something to be Desired is another glimpse, with Gatsby affiliations, of the obverse of the American dream, and more stylish and searching, as well as more shameless, than most.

After that bad start, Lucien may or may not be regenerated by discovering himself to be the proprietor of a booming hot spring resort (judging by the way he allows himself to be led by the second wife, who has no respect for his wife's life of wrong marital turnings and one great destructive romance, philosophising over the incorrigible illegals, ego beat out of a novel, of some talent).

With *Le Chien Couchant* Sagan has abandoned the Martini set for something closer to the Simeon world of ingrowing obsession, an interesting departure even if one sometimes wonders in matters of sex and crime why we accept, particularly from the French, the kind of psychological explication we would question in an English writer.

A lumpy lodger finds a cache of stolen jewelry and pretends to be a murderer to impress his raddled landlady, a former Marcelline prostitute whose pimp is waiting in the wings to catch the next great and revolting force the two unlovely characters together in a macabre relationship that keeps the reader reasonably glued.

The Christians provide the central theme, with the souls of Saul and Paul at the heart of the matter; the former scourge of the Nazarenes is overtaken by an epileptic fit on the road to Damascus. Flesh and spirit, the rational and the magical, are at odds with each other, and how are doubts today? Jesus asks Thomas: It turns out that he physically survived his crucifixion and recovered in the cave. Burgess's vigour and clarity and unflinching great picture are covered with sickening skill — not least the Lions versus Christians, a match described with the devotion and finesse of a Gracie or a Cardus at Old Trafford.

Tone is important in such a book, and Burgess does at least as many pitfalls as the higher-flying manner of an older convention. Burgess mixes his modes with audacity and a remarkable degree of clarity. It's the pace, no doubt, that does it. Now and then — when the cameras stop, as you might say — oddities obtrude. One minute we are in some grand-scale orgiastic revel, attending to a prose-poem on the allure and sexual enthusiasms of Messalina; the next we may find ourselves reading her parting buttocks.

For all his skill Burgess can avoid these sudden subsidences. Perhaps they are even deliberate; there's a certain piquancy in not being quite sure whether you're at the Temple of Astarte or the Hammerstein Palace.

Mercifully it isn't palace merrymen and gory-alelujahs all the way. Mercifully, and I say that, other shock-horror stories get full treatment — the burning of Rome, the destruction of Jerusalem, one dreadful event after another. No wonder the characters want to get away from it all. And where do they choose for their leave their bit of peace and quiet in the sun? Pompeii, of course; so it's back to work they go.

Was it always like that? Were there no ordinary, or even worth recording, Here Sadoc, who seems an honest and likeable ghost, makes a dreadful confession. Of course there were, but who wants to read about them? Ordinary lives around yawns rather than admiration, he tells us.

From which we may conclude that if there is a Jane Austen of the ancient world, or even a Corcoran Street, they are unlikely to be resurrected by this author.



Anthony Burgess

Holy Roman

Norman Shrapnel

The Kingdom of the Wicked, by Anthony Burgess (Hutchinson, £9.95).

SADOC, the humble scribbler who serves as narrator in *The Kingdom of the Wicked*, begins with a warning to sensitive readers about the horrors he has to tell. This must be accounted more than mere salesmanship: the fellow is anxious to get his book written so that he can leave "this beautiful and damnable world," which doesn't sound like the normal cashing-in urge. Some tales, it seems, just have to be told.

Anthony Burgess, through his certain ghost-writer of his, certainly lays it on. His title derives from what the Jews called the Roman empire and it's undoubtedly a book for the times — our times too. Sadoc writes like a columnist of early gossip columnists; he gets even, though, when it comes to eccentric monsters like Tiberius or Nero who might think that even a fly on the wall would hardly feel safe from the risk of being recruited for some bizarre amusement.

Caligula inevitably looms large, sharing with the troublesome Christians at least the unRoman belief in one god and the unimportant difference being, of course, that in his case he believed that he was it.

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Taken to the cleaners

by Tom Phillips

The Ravished Image, or How to Ruin a Masterpiece by Restoration, by Sarah Walden (Weidenfeld, £12.95).

original varnish Titian himself once travelled from Venice to Ferrara to readjust. Supported in her plea for caution by Professor Gombrich (an old campaigner in her field, who provides the introduction), Sarah Walden underlines the point that our way of seeing a work of art is itself conditioned by temporary cultural factors (like museum lighting and the electronic aesthetic). Such passing modes of perception can easily be rendered permanent by a restorer using the swab of fashion and scalpels of Zeitgeist.

Mrs Walden points interestingly enough at the Russian museum as a model of conservation policy ("for a mixture of reasons — cultural conservatism, technological constraints, and the virtual absence of market and media pressures — Soviet paintings have a quieter life") and ad-

vocates a middle path of non-irreversible treatments so that today's restorer be seen in the future as yesterday's vandal.

The book includes a lively crash course in the history of painting techniques, though I, as a practitioner, resent the implication that the living artist is by definition technically illiterate. It has only taken a few years, for example, for the artist to perceive acrylics as the "paint that lasts" and to return to oils as soon as the inadequacies revealed themselves: artists in general are watchful over the behaviour of the materials they use.

The sloppy or misguided technician has always been with us (Watteau, Reynolds etc.) and some of today's leading artists (Richard Hamilton for example) have a prodigious grasp of technique. Mrs Walden's sensibilities do not extend very far into the twentieth century; anyone who talks of Mondrian's "gaunt squares of primary colour" has evidently never looked at the passionate application and nervous surfaces of his paint. She cannot spell the name of Marcel Duchamp.

Sarah Walden's text has so many sound points to make and salutary stories to tell that it hardly needs the hysterical tone of voice she frequently adopts; the tragedy of restoration does not necessarily call for the language of Restoration Tragedy. The book's vocabulary starts with the title and ends with the ravaged innocence in its turn compounded by the cover illustration, which shows a painting of a naked woman whose depicted arm is being injected by a man in a white coat who holds the hypodermic in his rubber-gloved hands.

The book has a wild look about it with its mysterious division into Parts and Chapters: a few illustrations (mostly not even mentioned in the text) have been casually bunged into the work at a random point, perhaps to justify the rather high price. Nevertheless it is valuable to have an expert view of a business that often seems to be practised as a secret alchemy.

While Sarah Walden does not go as far as Ruskin (who suggested that Dante's "Abandon Hope" inscription should be placed above the entrances to the picture-cleaning departments of museums) she does issue, though with perhaps too little naming of names, a necessary and timely warning, and we should be grateful in advance for whatever rabble damage her admonitions might forestall.

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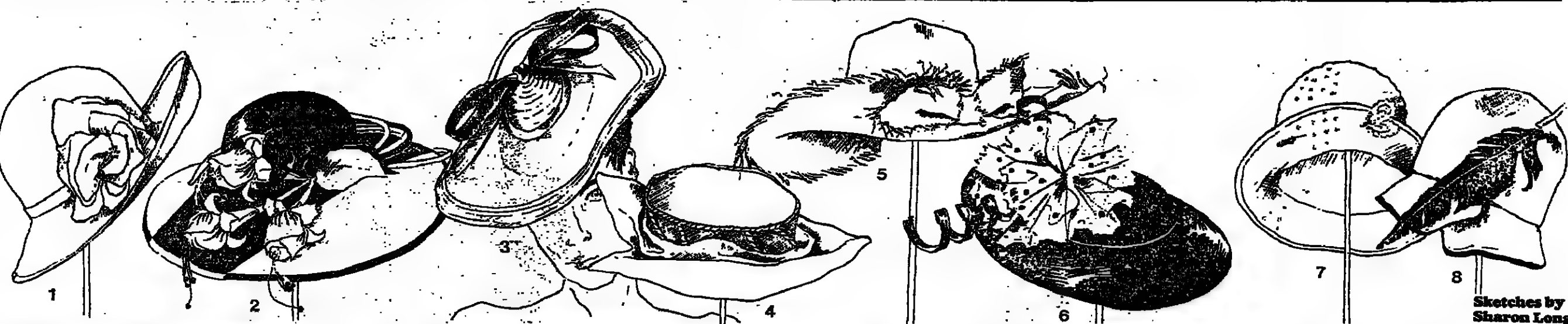
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Sketches by Sharon Long



Right: Navy crown hat with white and navy spot trim, £102 from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Jewellers: Edinburgh, Claremont, Baidon, Yorkshire Silk, navy and white spot suit, shawl collar jacket and pleated skirt, £-14, £399 by Roland Klein from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Red circle and black surround earrings, £11.95 from Harvey Nichols.



Top left: Beige periwinkle straw sun-vest with four buttons, £132 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Joan Fontana, Birmingham; Jenners, Edinburgh.



Centre left: White cotton ruffled hood, £100 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Bottom left: Red beret with polka-dot bows in various colours, £21 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Jenners, Edinburgh; Joan Fontana, Birmingham.



Hair by Paula at Simon Ratten, 34 Cragford Road, W1 (01-734 1985). Make-up by Natalie Jackson.



Pictures by Nathalie Lamoral

- Above from left to right:
1. Cream and white parisiens straw hat with shot taffeta hand-made flower trim (also made, hot pink, sherry, cerise) £66 by Viv Knewland from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Ann Blair, Esher, Surrey; Dynasty, Chester.
 2. Black and white straw, wide brimmed hat with gros grain and hand painted flower trim, to order from David Skilling, 44 Chiltern Street, W1.
 3. Red lacquered straw and net hat with straw bow trim, £135 by Frederick Fox, 109 Sloane Street, SW1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1.
 4. Turquoise straw hat with silk crown, gold braiding and crushed brim, £108 to order from Stephen Jones, 34 Lexington Street, W1.
 5. Mushroom straw hat with frayed edge and straw bow trim, £37 by Janet James for Accessible Too from Daria-Jane Gilroy, King's Road, SW3; Reine, St Helier, Jersey; £3 p & p by mail order from 4 Cromwell Mews, SW7.
 6. Black straw hat, deep blue net with black bead drops and black straw corkscrew trim, £31.75 by Sandra Phillips from Unit No. 210, Hyper Hyper, 28-40 Kensington High Street, W8.
 7. Natural straw cloche with hat pin, £5.45 from The Hat Shop, Neal Street, WC2.
 8. Natural straw cloche with black gros grain and feather trim, £31.75 by Sandra Phillips from Unit No. 210, Hyper Hyper, 28-40 Kensington High Street, W8.

Head lines

Brenda Polan — a secret addict since she was a teenager — welcomes the return of the hat

MY OWN weakness for hats is both well chronicled and much commented upon. Most regard it as a harmless eccentricity. The less friendly deem it confirmation that I have found my true vocation. A few old friends know that it is evidence of my political unsoundness.

This became clear one particularly balmy Manchester evening as a group of us watched the sun set over Warrington from various recumbent positions on the front steps. Euphoric with sunshine and shandy, another student, Big Dave Clarke, had embarked on a detailed description of how he saw the first day of the definitely imminent revolution panning out.

Suddenly he lurched to his feet to emphasise more effectively the climax of his peroration. "And then... and then... Snigger... and then we'll have Comrade Polan declare the barricade manned... Gulp, choke, deep breath... theatrical pause... in a hat."

Of course, they all hooted. I laughed too. Had to, didn't I? But guilt was born. And my pleasure in hats has been muffled by it ever since. "Oh, like your hat," says the deputy features editor, a kind man. Guilt floods every capillary. "It's purely practical," I snarl, gibbering into my justification. "It's peaked so it keeps the rain off my glasses. Otherwise I can't see when it rains. Glasses should really

have windscreen wipers, shouldn't they? And I lost my umbrella. I've lost more umbrellas..."

Big Dave was not the only member of our set or our generation to recognise the political implications of hats. Hats, for this generation which was going to change the world, signified the generation set on wrecking it. If we couldn't get to change it fast enough, they signified bowlered bloated capitalists, the Queen and Tory ladies in floral-frocked conference, secret policemen with tributes pulled down to touch their collars, all uniformed or merely self-important authority. In sum, a ludicrous, pathetic and wilfully wicked society corrupt and blithely destructive.

About society we were not really wrong. About hats we were. Poor things. As a consequence they went into a decline from which they are only just recovering, thanks to a whole different set of associations in the minds of a new generation. You see, the young set the pace of fashion and when we abandoned hats, our mothers did too. Hatlessness, together with short skirts and flip-flops, was the way to look modern, with it, er, hip. It was a bad time for milliners with only woolly winter numbers and Ascol productions in demand. A business that seasonal can't be good.

Not good but not that bad either, says George Dan,

managing director of Europe's biggest hat-making company, Kangol. His factory in Cumbria got along all right producing berets for schools and the forces and steam-moulded little numbers, the pull-ons which elderly ladies all over the country (and all over the chilly bits of the world) reach for automatically before venturing forth.

The end of National Service and the misguided egalitarianism which did away with school uniform and plumped parents into teenybopper fashion and its attendant penny were not good news for Kangol. It ruthlessly focused its attention on the granny market.

"It is the part of the market," says George Dan, "that the Americans euphemistically term 'the ageing customer' and there was a good deal of room for growth. So, in 1973, we bought a traditional hat-making factory in Luton. The owner was retiring and the staff, people with great experience in traditional hat-making and enormous technical talent, had nowhere to go."

To a great extent they were also victims of the decline in the market. A new market needed to be created and for that we needed a special ingredient. That ingredient was Graham Smith, a milliner whose work I very much admired. I was sure that if I could persuade him to join us, we could produce hats that a new generation

would want to wear. For me his style represented very good taste, restraint, a disciplined lack of gimmicks. If he puts something on a hat that looks strange, you may be sure it also has a certain chic.

Graham Smith took a year to make up his mind about George Dan's offer. "My initial reaction was that it was a funny idea. I had my own business which was very successful. If I had to leave it, I would have to do the work myself. If a customer wanted a hat for a certain occasion, it simply could not be delivered late. I couldn't afford to pay anyone else, though, so I used to do the cleaning myself. It was quite common for a duchess or a famous actress to surprise me in the act of scrubbing the loo. I was a bit of a snob, but I was a snob just about sums up the exclusive little section of the market in which Graham was used to working. He had trained at Bromley College of Art (which is now a fashion school) and then gone on to do a postgraduate course at the Royal College of Art. After only 18 months, however, he was offered a job in Paris at Lanvin working with Castillo. Professor Janey Ironside packed him off with her blessings.

"In those days," says Graham, "the epitome of style was Givenchy and Balenciaga. The clothes were very severe and strict and the designer would top it all with a huge, dotty hat. A great big thing sticking out in all directions. It was so chic, so dramatic."

He returned to London to work with Michael of Carlos Place and started up his own couture millinery business. At the time that George Dan approached Graham, mass-market hats were not really part of fashion. They were special-occasion nonsense — massed petals after the Easter hat, or flower-decked straws — or purely functional affairs to pull down over frost-bitten ears or a sunburned nose. George was asking Graham to do something completely new and untried.

"Luckily," says Graham, "George was not in a hurry for results. He was able, as the largest hat manufacturer in Europe, to give me time to familiarise myself with the technology of mass-production so that my ideas would be practicable."

The collaboration has been as fruitful as George could ever have hoped. Graham designs his own couture range which is made in his workshop in Kangol's West End offices, and the Graham Smith for Kangol range manufactured at the Luton factory.

"There is a new generation

enjoying hats," he says. "They appreciate the way they finish off an outfit, provide the full stop on the exclamation mark. Young people are becoming much more creative in their dress and they love the wit of a hat."

As the bliss of guilt-free hattedness. See them ashy-aying down the street, posing in the clubs, collecting the groceries and letting the dimpling old lady, who's quavering about missing her bus and tugging anxiously at her granny hat, charge first through the check-out — as she always does. And all of them, the girls and the boys, wearing splendid hats.

Fashion, as the line-up at the top of the page proves, has taken the hat back to its bosom. Milliners thrive once again in appreciable and appreciated numbers. But will I ever cast the mocking ghost of Big Dave out of my psyche and learn to love my hats with a passion unalloyed?

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What's in it for women, Mr Chairman?

TWO YEARS ago a small group of women began politely asking company chairmen at annual general meetings what their companies did for their women employees. Now several companies have made a director or senior manager responsible for all their women employees.

The idea of using a shareholder's right to ask a question in an annual general meeting came from Caryl Gough, a member of the feminist organisation, the Fawcett Society.

For some, it has been an intimidating experience. Dale Spender and Mary Stott were among the 20 or so women participating in the campaign and though as feminist writers and campaigners both are practised and polished public speakers, both say that asking questions in an AGM is the hardest form of public address — they have encountered

One woman non-executive director (and of the few women on the main board of major companies, most are non-executives) found that when the chairman dismissed shareholders stood up one after another, men and women alike, to ask the chairman to answer the question.

But there are no guarantees that the chairman will answer the question. He (almost invariably he) is responsible for chairing the meeting and uses his discretion over the amount of time he allows to any issue — and over which questions he will take.

For instance, at last season's AGM of one of Britain's biggest private sector employers, a vicar wanted to know how the company planned to use its impossibly large cash mountain to help the unemployed in areas where it is a major employer. The acting chairman couldn't give any details and the vicar wouldn't accept platitudes.

The chairman resorted to sneering at the questioners' small shareholding, as if this invalidated his question. As far as the governing AGMs are concerned, however, the question of small shareholders are just as important as those of the big institutional investors.

The threat of that sort of confrontation makes women putting questions not as proxies for others particularly uneasy, and this sense of illegitimacy is reinforced by the response some chairmen give to a question about women. At one major conglomerate's AGM, the first six consecutive questions were put by women, which provoked the chairman to say he wanted to take the next question from a man, in the interests of equality. As it happened, the next 19 questions were from men, but the chairman did not feel moved again to adjust the balance of the sexes.

On the other hand, Caryl Gough found chairmen like John Harvey Jones of ICI helpful, and actively interested in the issue she raised.

But many chairmen regard a question about the employment of women as tiresome. For some it is a marginal issue and answered, even in companies where the workforce is predominantly female, in terms of the company's policies on ethnic minorities and disabled employees, while for others it is

distinctly suspicious. They scent a lobbyist.

There is a widespread antagonism between chairmen and lobbyists, whose aims the chairmen see as political and therefore falling outside the scope of company policy. They prefer to isolate their companies from the social and political context in which they make their money, at least in the AGM, which they see as essentially a time for answering shareholders' questions about the performance of their shares.

But shareholders and lobbyists are not breeds apart. Though only shareholders, and in most companies, their proxies, may put a question at an AGM, all shareholders, even those with only the minimum shareholding, are entitled to ask and to be answered. Some shareholders have invested in the company for personal profit, others in order to be able to raise questions.

Caryl Gough decided on AGMs as her platform in order to bring the board's attention to the position of women in the companies they provide, and to raise a question from the top would prove more effective than a suggestion from outside. She considered that it might also raise the consciousness of other shareholders and it would provide a basis for comparison if the question were put to the same companies over a period of time.

She found she made fruit-



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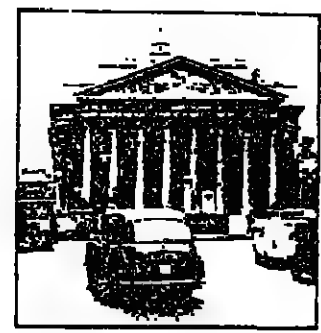
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Whatever Next... or how the bid for Debenhams could change the high street



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

THERE was a certain inevitability about the bid for Debenhams.

Forget about the Saff in the Sunday newspapers hunting the shares. The plain fact was that Debenhams is worth more

broken up than it is worth together.

It was only a matter of time before one of the string of potential predators would step forward and seek to liberate the assets, and repack-age them into something different.

The present plan is interesting, as you would expect from two skilled retailers like Mr Halpern and Sir Terence. Some of the ideas for the group's space are discussed opposite.

Both men have been able to devise products which serve markets that were not very well served before. Both are backed by strong organisations. Sir Terence has defied critics in the City who were concerned that he was, with the Mothercare merger, spreading himself too thin. Mr Halpern has done all the right things with Burton, transforming public perception of the Burton name, creating the Next lookalike, Principles, and so on.

Retall is detail — and

both are very good detailers. And yet there is a question mark over these two. Where will the champion retailer come in with another project, maybe even the much-publicised management buy-out which will be hived off? Whatever happens something radically different will all the Debenhams sites in 18 months' time.

But that, unless you happen to be a Debenhams shareholder, is not really the most interesting issue.

The really interesting thing is what will be the next great winner in retailing? What happens next after Next? If you were looking at places where this might happen, a good starting point would be Burton and Halpern.

Sir Terence has probably done as much to improve design standards throughout the country as Elizabeth David did to lift our eating habits after the last war.

Mr Halpern has shown real retailing flair: in his way, he is almost in the Sir John Sainsbury league. Hand the two great woges of Debenhams space and something exciting ought to happen.

How will they create that excitement? The crystal ball is no better than anyone else's but it does give some pointers. Let's list four.

First, there is the changing age profile of the population. You have only to look at the slump in projected student numbers to see that retailers face an aging population.

One of the clever things about Next was the way it geared itself to professional 30-year-olds rather than people in their 20s. It is the exact reverse of the late 1960s, where tastes became younger, in response to the new spending power of the children of the post-war baby boom.

Following the Next genera-

tion upwards as it gets older, identifying the products which satisfy this group and finding ways of delivering these products to it, is going to be a prize worth chasing.

Second, the margins are unmarket. People want clothes which don't fall to bits. They want cloth which feels good to touch. This means a further shift back towards natural fibres: look at the way linen is re-emerging as a high-fashion fabric.

One of the most interesting places to watch here will be Marks and Spencer, for Lord Ragner is 'overridingly eager to give shoppers a feeling of quality in fabrics.'

St Michael does give this in food, but has somewhat lost the ability to do it with his clothes. In a way, Marks is hunting for the clothing equivalent of its chicken Kiev. It has not quite found it, but the fact that it is looking is interesting.

Third, there is exclusive-

ness. A cartoonist's standby has long been two women appearing at a party in exactly the same clothes. But even not particularly fashionable women might feel a touch irritated to see their children along with everyone else's, dressed in standard Mothercare and St Michael. The cheap solution of buying mass-market children's clothes in the US is also closed by the current level of the dollar.

But this raises the absolutely crucial issue of whether giant national retailers can find ways of selling exclusively. Lots of small lines? More use of out-of-town design? Greater freedom within defined limits for different area buyers to shop around for merchandise?

Maybe the giant retailer becomes more a loose holding company, supporting a chain of boutiques, each operating quite autonomously. Maybe it can't be done.

Fourth, there is comfort. In as far as shops are com-

peting for the shoppers' time, shopping has to be made into a pleasant experience. At the moment, professionals divide shopping into two groups: mission and comparison. Mission is going to the supermarket and buying what you have to buy. Comparison is going to different shops and making a choice between them.

Mission will continue, with the aim being to solve the checkout problem: how to get people in and out of the place with all the stuff they came to buy.

But how will comparison shopping move? As dual income families become the norm, it simply becomes inefficient to have to trudge about from shop to shop to make comparisons. Dual income shoppers have implicitly to cost their time when shopping. And no one wants to get to a shop, find it uncomfortable, have a disagreeable experience with the sales staff and find a ticket on the car when you come out.

Shops add value to their products by creating a nice environment in which to buy them.

In a way, shops need to become more like hotels and posh ones at that.

Now all this is pretty basic stuff. The problem is how to apply it to existing property such as Debenhams represents.

To be successful the retailer has to score on all four of those themes, and it is by no means clear that high street sites can score high enough. The erosion of the high street may continue. Yet Debenhams represents high street shopping.

Any owner of its property has to find ways to driving down the sites, or else simply regard the whole deal as a property investment, keeping the bits which fitted and discarding the rest.

But can the bidders for Debenhams do something more exciting? And what?

JMB fiasco prompts move to closer scrutiny

Boost for auditors' role in policing the City

By Margaret Pagano

Auditors are to play a far more important role in policing all financial groups in the City following the lessons learnt from the collapse last year of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Bank auditors are already expected to establish closer relationships with the Bank of England's banking supervisory system after the JMB fiasco. The bank's failure, with debts of £245 million, raised so many questions over the liaison between accountants and the Bank's supervision department that it has prompted close scrutiny over all financial firms which may come within its ambit of control.

The Bank of England will, for example, want to forge close links with the accountants of all the new financial groups which will be allowed into the new gilt market.

But the Bank also expects that these relationships will be extended to supervision of all financial markets.

still to decide whether it will take legal action against JMB's auditors, Arthur Young, McClelland Moores, for alleged negligence in not having spotted the extent of the troubles at JMB.

The Governor of the Bank of England is due to send the Treasury a report, which is likely to recommend changes in the supervisory system, by the end of the month. The report, which could be made to the public, is expected to be requested by Mr Nigel Lawson, following the JMB collapse.

Most of the accountancy profession backs a closer link between bank auditors and the Bank. In a recent report, the Institute of Chartered Accountants recommended that a formal link should be established with the Bank, and that it should be given special reports, including prudential and statistical returns on firms.

It also suggested the Bank's investigatory powers should be extended, and it should be given the power to force a

change of auditor in special circumstances. It also recommended that the Bank's supervisory division should be beefed up with accountancy expertise.

There are strong precedents for such formal links. Both Lloyd's of London and the Stock Exchange have close ties between the auditors of member firms and the respective regulatory bodies.

All Stock Exchange members are required to submit quarterly returns on the business to either of two approved accountants, Deloitte, Haskins & Sells and Peat, Marwick & Mitchell. If there are problems they can directly inform the Exchange's administration or council.

The Exchange is also able to take legal action against firm's auditors as it did in the cases of the Mitton, Butler and Hedderwick failures, which were eventually settled out of court.

At Lloyd's all accounts submitted by the syndicates have to be passed by approved auditors.

Tories curb spread of wealth

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

TREASURY figures published in a Parliamentary written answer show that the redistribution of the nation's wealth which was taking place during the 1970s has come to an abrupt halt under the present Tory government.

While the percentage of Britain's wealth owned by the richest one per cent of the population fell from 21 per cent in 1971 to 13 per cent in 1979, it fell only marginally further to 11 per cent by 1982, the latest year for which figures are available.

There was almost no decline in the proportion of the country's wealth controlled by the richest five and 10 per cent of the population between 1979 and 1982, after sharp falls in the preceding eight years.

The figures, presented by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Moore, in a reply to the Labour MP for Coventry South, Mr Dave Nellist, also indicate that the share of wealth owned by the richest 25 per cent of the population remained at the same level — between 56 per cent and 59 per cent — over the three years up to 1982.

Other figures included in Mr Moore's answer show that the richest one million people in the UK now earn more than £20,000 a year before tax, while 1.6 million earn between £15,000 and £20,000.

Further up the salary ladder, 600 people are estimated to earn £250,000 or more, although these figures exclude the expense account benefits accorded to Britain's best paid executives.

A total of 45,000 people earn between £50,000 and £100,000.

The Liberalising measures should also, in the medium term, make Zimbabwe a more attractive proposition to foreign investors, as they will be able to remit their profits and dividends in foreign exchange from January 1986, he said.

Such remittances will be permitted over a six-year period. The sum to be remitted will be put in special bonds earning four per cent interest and portions of the amount will be remitted each year for six years. The remittance of dividends to foreign investors had been suspended at the end of March 1985.

The Liberalising measures show a significant improvement in Zimbabwe's economy, due to a bumper agricultural harvest and successful austerity measures.

Mr Chirero's decision has been hailed as a step in the right direction by businessmen, bankers, economists and diplomats.

Three years of drought in southern Africa and the worldwide recession forced Zimbabwe — one of black Africa's most prosperous and diversified economies — to adopt strict austerity measures. Now the economic outlook for 1985 is "cautiously optimistic," according to one Zimbabwean economist.

The balance of trade registered a surplus of 200 million Zimbabwe dollars (about £110 million) for 1984, up from a deficit in 1983, thanks to increased exports of cotton, tobacco and minerals, as well as a reduction in imports.

The happy balance of trade could increase in 1985, according to experts, notably because of the good rains this year which brought in a harvest of more than three million tons of maize, allowing for the export of a million tons of the region's staple grain.

Zimbabwe's balance of payments still registered a deficit, but it showed a remarkable improvement. By blocking the remittance of dividends to foreign investors in March last year the government made a big saving. More savings were made from stringent cuts in foreign exchange allotments to industry. One economist estimates that over three years, and including the Zimbabwe dollar's 30 per cent devaluation, industry's foreign currency allocations were effectively cut by 60 per cent.

Icahn bids \$600m for TWA

From Mark Tran

The New York investor, Mr Carl Icahn, has stepped up his attacks on Trans World Airlines by offering to buy up the rest of TWA's shares that he does not already own. In a letter to the TWA board, Mr Icahn said a group he leads, AFC Industries, will offer \$18 per share, or a total of \$488.7 million for 75 per cent of the company's stock.

TWA's president, Mr C. E. Meyer, said Mr Icahn's unsolicited proposal will be given consideration. But until now, the airline has been fighting tooth and nail to ward off Mr Icahn. In full page advertisements in newspapers on Monday, TWA said "Mr Icahn, if you thought we'd stand aside and do nothing while you try to

take over our company — think again."

In other defensive actions, TWA is pursuing its application to the Securities and Exchange Commission and to shareholders.

In typical muscular style, Mr Icahn said that if the board did not present this offer to shareholders, he would begin to seek support through mailings to them to remove TWA's current board. He said he would not accept any offers to buy back its holdings unless other TWA shareholders were offered the same terms.

Mr Icahn insists his motive is winning control of the carrier. Some analysts say that Mr Icahn bids TWA's current annual pre-tax cash flow of \$300 million very attractively. They added that he believes cash flow will increase by \$100 million annually if TWA

manages to reduce labour costs in current talks with its unions.

However, Mr Icahn may well be up to his old tricks of making a hostile raid in order to make a hefty profit on his investment when the company is bought out by another suitor or pays him to leave it alone.

His most celebrated swoosh was his attack on the oil patch. Mr Icahn may have suffered a major loss in his failed bid to take over the Unocal Oil Company — perhaps as much as \$100 million.

A fellow raider, Mr T. Boone Pickens, was not so lucky this week. Dubbed the "terror of the oil patch," Mr Pickens may have suffered a major loss in his failed bid to take over the Unocal Oil Company — perhaps as much as \$100 million.

manages to reduce labour costs in current talks with its unions.

EEC set to agree on product liability

From Derek Brown

European Community member states are poised — after nearly 10 years of debate — to accept the principle of manufacturer liability for damage caused by defective products.

The European umbrella group of consumer organisations, the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC), has highlighted its long-running campaign on product liability with the plight of victims of the anti-rheumatism drug Oprel, developed in the US by Eli Lilly and distributed in the UK by its British subsidiary.

BEUC estimates that until it was withdrawn, the drug was linked to between 80 and 100 deaths, with 800 other patients suffering severe side effects. But where US complaints had a legal right to compensation, British claims were rejected.

The EEC Commission estimates that accidents caused by products of this kind are responsible for 30,000 deaths and 30 million injuries each year. Although only a fraction were caused by defective goods, even those victims have often been denied proper compensation.

States — long held by consumer groups in Britain as an example to follow.

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Row after Bunzl offer for Brammer

By Andrew Cornhill

Bunzl, the packaging and distribution group, yesterday sparked a bitter row in the City after launching a £119.5 million takeover bid for Brammer, the engineering distribution company.

Which last week mounted a £35 million bid of its own for Energy Services and Electronics, immediately completed by the City Takeover Panel, said Bunzl, and shortly afterwards Brammer made its bid for Energy Services.

Mr Robert Ffoulkes-Jones, Brammer's finance director, said: "The first we knew was 12.40 pm, a good three hours after they put it out to the market."

There was also some confusion over the events which led to the bid by Bunzl. Mr James White, the spokesman for the Brammer share, Brammer said that it had identified Brammer as a possible partner early in 1984, principally due to Brammer's emphasis on distribution, where Bunzl has been developing its interests.

Bunzl bought a 4.6 per cent share stake in Brammer, which it subsequently sold at a healthy profit.

The description of events after the takeover bid was discussed at a further meeting between the two companies held late last month and that a further meeting was proposed by Brammer for May 16. This was cancelled at short notice, said Bunzl, and shortly afterwards Brammer made its bid for Energy Services.

Mr Ffoulkes-Jones, at Brammer said that the meeting was merely intended as a prelude to a bid to buy the hatchet. We thought that they had gone away."

Bunzl is offering 60 of its new shares and £119.5 million convertible loan stock for every 100 Brammer shares, or a cash offer of £37.10. This was Brammer's share, Brammer said that it would "fight the bid all the way," and continue its attempt to take over ESE.

Brammer shares rose by 53p to 400p on the bid, while Bunzl shares fell back 8p to 460p.

Surprise for City

By our City Staff

CITY eyebrows were raised yesterday by an unexpected government decision to change the way it repays the growth of the money supply each month. The 12-month target period has been dropped in favour of a 12-month growth comparison.

Although some analysts welcomed the move as long overdue, others criticised the change as a positive step towards achieving the target.

The change is aimed at reducing fluctuations in the reported figures early in the year. City economists were suspicious at first because it comes immediately after a very bad set of money supply figures for April.

They were calmed by the evidence that the April result looks almost as bad under the new method of calculation, which would, however, have kept sterling growth within rather than outside its target range last spring and summer.

Mr Lovett, of Ash Grove, Wiltshire, Humberdale, who

Fees for advice to farmers welcomed

By Rosemary Collins

Agriculture Correspondent

The government's intention to ask farmers to pay in return for more of the advice and research provided by its Agricultural Development and Advisory Service has been welcomed by most staff at ADAS.

Professor Ronald Bell, its director-general, has told them in an internal memorandum: "Clearly, staff are beginning to realise that a failure to achieve the target revenue could lead to staff cuts, and that some form of annual subscription to charging is a preferable alternative."

Some staff have reported misgivings about a possible drop in demand for ADAS services if charges are levied, and others would like to see lower fees charged to small farmers, with certain forms of advice remaining free of charge.

But the majority view, Professor Bell says, is that individual bills for each ADAS adviser's visit, so that some form of annual subscription to charging is a preferable alternative.

The judge ruled that there would "inevitably be a real tangible danger of deception and confusion among people familiar with British Printing if Mr Lovett used the BPC trademark."

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Maxwell wins ruling on trademark

By Robert Maxwell

British Printing and Communication Corporation yesterday won a ruling that the name of the Assistant Registrar of Trade Marks giving him the go-ahead to register the mark for himself.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Falconer allowed an appeal by British Printing and Communication Corporation to register the initials by which it is widely known as its trademark.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

US rates 'to rise'

HENRY KAUFMAN, the influential chief economist of Salomon Brothers, the US brokers, yesterday predicted a rise in interest rates and an end to the slowdown in economic growth in the US.

On a day when the dollar staged a recovery he said that he expected the US Federal Reserve would inject enough reserves into the system to produce for a while a real growth rate of 4 per cent or more, followed by a tightening again which will raise interest rates.

In London, the Bank of England was forced to cope with one of the biggest recent shortages in the banking system by injecting £1.7 billion into the markets, reinforcing criticism that its method of managing the money market has become unwieldy.

INSURANCE and banking invisible earnings in the City are expected to do well this year, though earnings from shipping and soft commodities is expected to be stagnant, according to a study carried out for the British Invisible Exports Council.

Total earnings are expected to grow well above the general level of inflation, with a particularly strong look to the marine sector, where invisible earnings are expected to rise by up to 30 per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN of Burnham Oil, Mr John Maibey, said in a statement yesterday that he had told Mr Gerald Heron, the chairman of the Heron Group, which has been making overtures to the oil company in recent weeks, that Burnham's board "could see no benefit in an amalgamation with Heron." He added that Heron had not made an offer.

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THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICE OF DEVALUATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. OFFERS OF STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON THURSDAY, 23RD MAY 1985.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 21st May 1985, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

£150 million 10 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1992
£250 million 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 2005

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 21st May 1985 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 21st May 1985 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock ranking in all respects pari passu with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus, save as to the particulars therein which related solely to the initial sale of the Stock. Copies of the prospectuses for the Stocks listed above, dated 11th November 1977 and 14th January 1983 respectively, may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992	21st February 1992	21st February 1992
10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005	20th September 2005	20th March 2005

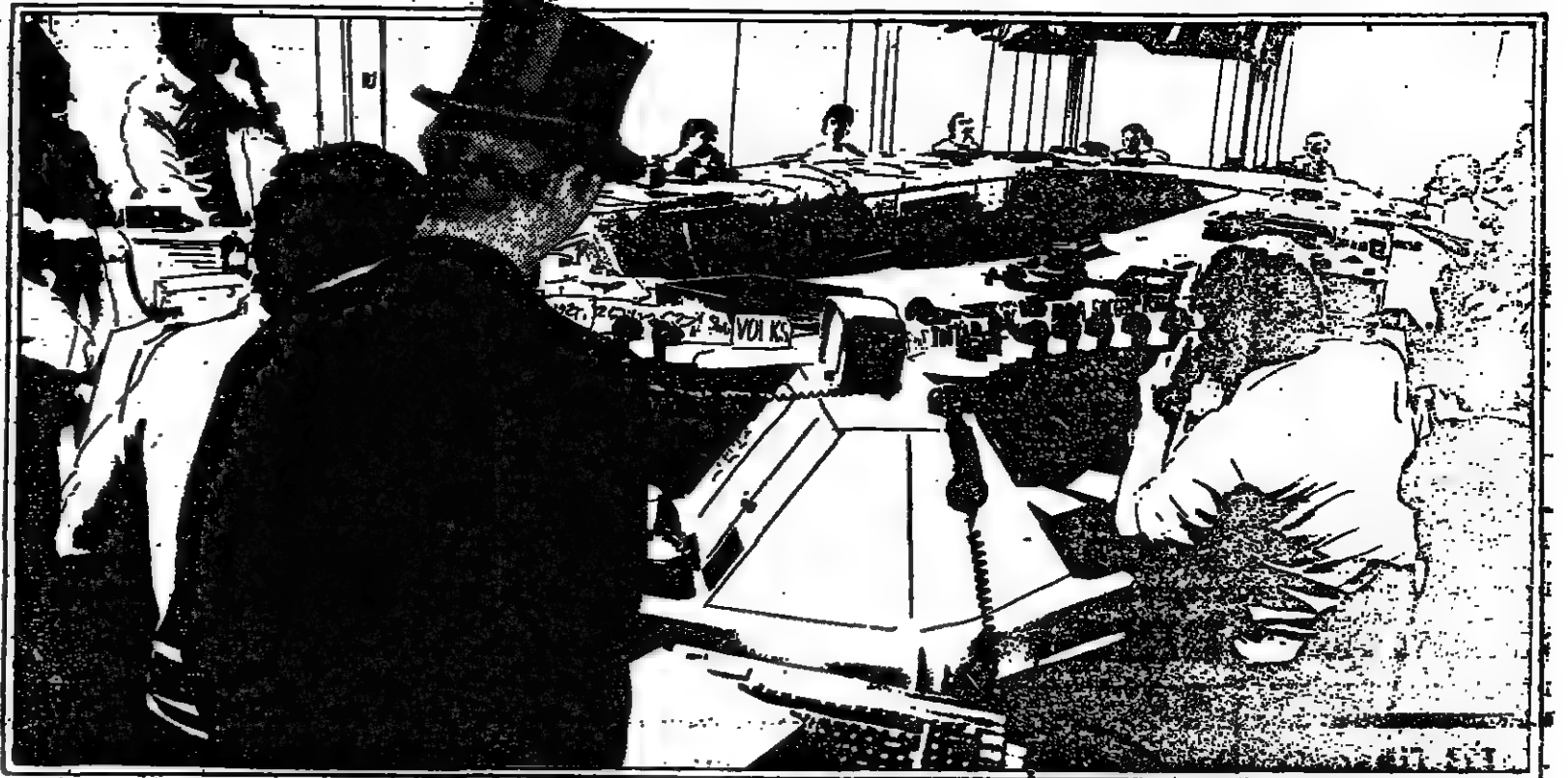
The further tranche of 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992 will rank for a full six months' interest on 21st August 1985. The further tranche of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 will rank for the interest payment of £8.5672 per cent due on 20th September 1985 on the existing Stock.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
21st May 1985

Montage by David Turner

Peter Rodgers and Margareta Pagano look at the brave new gilts market, and how the Bank is sorting out the men from the boys

Queuing for a place in a new, but not too exclusive, club



ASPIRING gilts dealers keen to spot potential rivals in the brave new gilts market should take time off to loiter outside the Royal Exchange. It has a great view of the Old Lady's front door.

For the interviews are now in full swing. Ever since the deadline closed there has been a constant stream of would-be candidates for the new primary dealerships pouring through the Bank of England's bronze doors.

Like prospective members of a new, but hopefully not too exclusive club, they are being hauled up before Mr Eddie George, the Bank director in command, to present their case for entry.

Mr George has the air of a man who has seen one too many. It is in his quiet, unassuming office that the men who have the courage to become major gilts players have to persuade, or convince, that they should be allowed into the market whose doors open for business in October, 1985.

It is a brand new market, because the old structure in which two jobbers, Wood Durbacher and Akroyd & Smithers, did most of the market-making is to be completely demolished. In its place will rise a New York-style government bond market, with a couple of dozen primary dealers making the market, and able, unlike the jobbers, to deal directly with clients under the Stock Exchange's planned new dual capacity system. They will also have the direct access to the Bank of England's gilts dealing which

is now the privilege of a handful of jobbers. The range of potential players is wide. They include the big US and Japanese financial houses, UK banks and brokers, and perhaps eventually building societies, to the old-hand gilts jobbers like Akroyd & Smithers and Wood Durbacher, who have dominated the market for years. To them the interviews should prove a mere formality, although they too are entering the great unknown.

With just a hint of humour, Mr George will still only concede there could be between eight and 100 applicants. Informed guesses are nearly as unimpeachable but narrow the odds to between 25 and 60 at the very outside.

Interviews are following a set agenda with questionnaire-style probes. They vary from how much capital will be put into the new dealerships, the type of gilts business they want to do, and corporate strategy. But the applicants are also having to give as precise details as possible about the proposed structure of their firms, the names of the dealers, even names and addresses of salesmen.

If the Bank has reservations it will suggest the group goes back to the drawing board. Most will be given the chance to come back and try again. The sessions are the Bank's chance to get the feel for the applicants' commitment, but are also giving players the opportunity to find out as much as they can about how the market is likely to evolve. For others it is a matter of routine.

one of the City's biggest gilts brokers, whose entry is almost certain, reported back that both sides ran out of questions within a few minutes.

There is no optimum number other than "quite large but not ridiculous". Applicants are not likely to be formally turned down unless there are the most severe reasons, but the conversations may discourage enough to keep the number to a manageable 50 or so. On June 2 the Bank aims to publish the number blessed. Then, for a fortnight, market forces will reign supreme as candidates will be given the chance to withdraw if the competition they see looks so heavy that the only result will be the carnage, as firms struggle to share too small a business volume.

The Bank appears to be relaxed over what may look like a high level of potential foreign control of the government's fund-raising. Happily, most of the main UK financial groups have expressed commitment to the market even though many are linked to US or other overseas firms. Morgan Grenfell, with its gilts broker, has access to capital from the German Deutsche Bank but would be considered a British market-maker.

But were the market to look as though it could be dominated by US groups like Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, and Solomons, who have yet to make any UK marriages, it would have to look again at what constitutes foreign control. There is also the thorny issue of Japanese access. There is a growing view,

particularly in the Stock Exchange, that unless one country backs down on the reciprocity argument neither side is likely to budge. But by giving access there could be a lever for bargaining. For the moment it is not likely that the Japanese will be allowed in on this round, but they may be told to hang on and wait for the Bank to review the position in a year after the market starts trading. The Stock Exchange suspects that the Bank will pass the buck by making Japanese entry conditional on acceptance as members of the Exchange.

Most applicants are said to have expressed a desire to keep trading within the Stock Exchange floor, where over 60 per cent of the £23 billion a year business is at present turned over. Large deals are expected to eventually move off the floor for negotiations with price quotations over the phone.

But the retail end, high in volume but low in value, is likely to stay on the floor for the time being.

While the Bank will handle overall supervision it will liaise with the Stock Exchange which will monitor trading for investor protection purposes. Details are still being worked out, but the core of protection will come through official price lists published on an hourly basis. Since all contracts will be time stamped, the exchange should have an effective means to pick up any suspicious price, move, or malpractice.

So far the exchange and the Bank have resisted pressure from institutions, and

Whitehall to have a last trade tape, which reports on transactions electronically, as they happen. It will give away too much about the market-makers' gilts prices and positions, so other dealers could get a "free ride", argues the exchange.

Investors need protection from incompetence or false pricing, but those sins are as nothing compared with the effects of a collapse of a major dealer, which is far from unthinkable when a brand new market starts with what will almost certainly be a surplus of capacity. The Bank of England has published strict capital guidelines for primary dealers, inter-dealer brokers, and money brokers, who will help finance stock positions.

The requirements reflect the Bank's experience with supervising banks although the dealers will report daily rather than quarterly. Given the speed with which dealers move, compared with banks, lessons will have to be applied from the collapse of a Johnson Matthey Bankers. The Bank of England is, for example, to give auditors a special dual responsibility to make some of their reports available to the Bank.

The Stock Exchange will remain responsible for the rest of the supervision function, including qualifications and professional standards. There is clearly a risk here of overlapping jurisdictions. The Bank believes that informal co-operation on the phone between itself and the

exchange would be more effective than setting up some formal co-ordinating committee.

Caution is the watchword, especially with the likely merger of the new gilts market with the discount market, which in theoretical terms is identical except that the participants deal in paper of very short maturity, including gilts which are near their redemption date. The discount market is the interface between the Bank of England and the banking system, and is used by the Bank as a tool of monetary policy to control interest rates and money supply.

The Bank likes the discount market because it allows it to avoid confrontations over interest rates with the big banks, so it is going slowly and carefully. It will not be merged with the gilts market for two to three years. Stage one of the evolution towards a merger was seen in the relaxation of ownership rules, which allowed a bank, Citicorp of the USA, for the first time to buy a discount house.

Stage two will allow the gilts dealers to develop their business into the discount market, but with a pricing handicap in the form of stricter capital requirements. Stage three will be to bring the two markets together, so that one of the most famous sights in the City, the top hatted bill broker, may finally become one of the hot-potatoes just another bond dealer instead of one of the aristocrats of the Square Mile.

The oldest thing about this caution is that for the

customer of conglomerates which own both primary dealers and discount houses the two markets will be indistinguishable from day one. The Bank is prepared to let a single person or dealing desk operate continuously in the gilts and bill market.

The condition would be that the different types of transaction are recorded in the names of either the gilts firm or the discount house, which would be separately capitalised. The customer need never know.

A second City tradition at risk is the tap stock, by which the Bank dribbles out gilts to the market when it wants. There are proposals to move to a US style auction system, ending a practice dating back to the late 17th century. No decision is likely until the new market is running, and traditionalists will be delighted to know that a search is on for a compromise.

With as many as 30 primary dealers and £750 million of capital to back them, the biggest risk to the new market is overcrowding. Add up the market shares they each need to break even, and you can be sure that it will have far above 100 per cent. Yet there are reasons to think that volume of trading may go down not up. The Bank dismisses estimates that the end of bond washing announced in the Budget could hit volumes by 25 per cent, but even a few per cent would be in the wrong direction.

The main hope to avoid rapid and bloody withdrawals from the market, is that the

new dealers will much more actively promote business to raise volume, at the very least, which will be another accomplishment of the new market. In any case, if any dealer has to make profits it will not be from commission but from taking positions in the market, so earnings from dealing will be cut to the bone.

The new inter-dealer brokers are also expected to raise the amount of gilts trading within the Stock Exchange itself, and there are great hopes that the large number of foreign participants in the market will raise overseas interest in buying gilts.

But what about that great resource, the British public with savings to invest? Surprisingly, 75 per cent of bargains in gilts are already done by small investors, although this is only 10 per cent of the volume. But after British Telecom, the government and the Bank of England clearly have to sell more gilts to small investors, and initially are looking to the clearing banks to devise cheap ways of marketing stock through their branches.

If the banks fail to respond, an intriguing possibility is being discussed: beefing up the National Savings Stock Register, through which gilts can be bought for low dealing costs at Post Offices.

One way would be to speed the system using computer terminals in Post Offices. The irritating delay of several days would be eliminated. So far, as yet, the Post Office has not yet been seen to see Eddie George.

The Burton way is fronted with gallerias

Mary Brasier on the transformation of the British high street

THE MESSAGE for the shopper in yesterday's £455 million bid for Debenhams from the Burton Group is that the traditional department store is dead. But the high street lives. What we are all going to hear a lot more about in this bid succeeds is the "galleria concept".

Debenhams' rambling retail floors will be transformed into small shops-within-shops, selling limited and specific products from clothes to dresses. An integrated collection of highly focused specialist stores under one roof with a clearly-targeted range of merchandise is how Burton's chief, Mr Ralph Halpern, describes it.

Gallerias started in Milan, were adopted by the US and look set to become the fashionable import this year to the UK. They are shopping malls, but given the kind of design and polish in the past reserved for more exclusive stores. What Mr Halpern and Sir Terence Conran are planning is in fact a rescue of the British high street.

Plans by the retail trade's top names to move out of town have threatened to drain some of the life blood away from traditional shopping centres. Cramped sites and lack of car parking facilities have done most of the damage. The combined efforts of Burton and Habitat Moterecare to create a new shopping environment in Debenhams stores might just be the shot in the arm the town centre needs.

"Through design, style and excellence of presentation an environment will be created which will bring the excitement back to large surface area shopping," Burton said yesterday.

British retailing has been slow to adapt. There are lots

of examples where big store areas have been made to work profitably. This will give the high street impetus," Mr Halpern added.

The transformation of Debenhams stores into gallerias will include from the outset some of the UK's top retail names. The Habitat and Burton stores will bring in shops like Mothercare, Top Man and Principles. If the bid succeeds, Habitat's Queensway, which has a joint venture with Debenhams, is also likely to join in with electricals and furnishing outlets, and there is talk of food retailers.

The idea is a logical extension of the rise of the specialist store in the UK. Over the past three years, shops with professionally packaged images like Next have stolen the ground from under the feet both of department stores and variety stores like Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores and Littlewoods. All of them have had to reach for design firms to remodel and

re-launch their stores and their products.

What the specialist shops did not have until now was space. There are now Next shops within a few yards of each other in the City of London because the original outlet was cramped and every lunchtime Good town centre pitches are hard to come by and as a result expensive.

The Debenhams deal offers the specialist stores 4.5 million square feet of selling area in 67 locations across the country in which to vent their design ideas and sell their products.

Habitat will increase its total selling space by nearly a quarter and both groups believe that they can use the space much more profitably than Debenhams. In addition, Habitat has an incentive contract under its belt to revamp the department stores. Sir Terence estimates a cost of 10p per square foot just to brighten the decor.

The average size of a Debenhams store — 67,000 square feet — means that both groups can also expand

into new retail areas, although product ranges will be kept quite small to maintain the sense of identity of the stores. Hamleys is one part of the existing Debenhams group which will not be developed as a specialist shop.

For Burton, Debenhams offers an opportunity to move into a different market. Its chains are currently aimed at the 15-30 age range, but the profitable market to target is the over 30s market.

"The acquisition of Debenhams will allow the expansion of Burton chains such as Principles, which already meet the needs of such customers and the development of new formats aimed at this, the fastest growing sector of the clothing market," said Mr Halpern. The 25-plus market is twice the size of the 15-24 market.

Taking over Debenhams is intended to make Mr Halpern a more successful retailer, not just a powerful landlord.

Debenhams has repeatedly failed to realise its potential,

Burton claims. It has been the City's favourite takeover target for months but chairman, Mr Robert Thornton, rejected an approach in January from Habitat because he said it had nothing new to offer.

Attempts to revitalise Debenhams have been slow under the Thornton team, though. The joint venture with Harris Queensway which took over Debenhams electricals and carpets departments has not delivered instant improvements. Debenhams revealed earlier this month that the carpets side had in fact lost money.

The key to the more radical Burton and Habitat plan is that Debenhams will not just be the sum of many different parts, but that each part will have a separate and very strong identity. It is the combination of specialisation and design which Ralph Halpern and Sir Terence are banking on.

If it works as well as individual shops like Next, and Principles both men and the British high street will be the richer for it.

Mounting worries as the markets streak ahead



INVESTMENT Robin Stoddart

IT MAY only be whispered in Whitehall and is appearing in black and white in just a few occasional droppings from the City's high-flying pigeons, but money supply, inflation and interest rates are beginning to stand out like a sore thumb. The boom from recent financial trends in the United States will only add up to the sting later, as world trade slows down.

The consumer boom, which is more pronounced and long-running in Britain than almost anywhere else, has at

last got through to home manufacturers. Luckily, export sales to the US and some other countries have been buoyant for about a year and capital investment has also been strong. So the average living standards that the North Sea oil bonanza ushered in, after huge investment and some ill-effects, is evident to all, if not shared by everyone.

Mr Thatcher's boast that inflation was being beaten and that this would lead to greater competitiveness and wider prosperity will not stand much repetition, this summer.

Last month's 2.1 per cent rise in retail prices was above most estimates and since it was among the worst dozen or so on record, the seasonal excuses barely wash. Lower mortgage rates, which are on the cards for early autumn after the reduction in dollar interest rates and rise in the pound this week, will amend the situation a little. But the main hallmark of this administration is no longer sound money, but quick profit.

On company profits are easily the biggest, with only those of public sector companies that are in process of privatisation anywhere near what the integrated seven-

sisters can command, after they have handed over hefty extraction levies to the Treasury.

It is an odd coincidence that the oil companies have succeeded in making petrol prices increase just when the sterling oil price has taken quite a heavy knock. Refiners' downstream earnings are now better than for many a year. But they have boosted inflation.

Neither consumer spending, nor corporate profits have been particularly significant features of President Reagan's more dynamic America. The resounding rise in the dollar was until recently the most prominent aspect, along with the fairly widespread economic advance. Lower unemployment was a big plus, especially by comparison with the situation in Europe, the yawning trade gap is a mixed blessing, and the budget deficit an international liability.

Give or take a few million tons of coal or an accelerating decline in the oil price and the US economy could soon show a faster growth rate than Britain's and maintain it for the foreseeable future. The reduction in its key interest rate signals the Federal Reserve's desire to prevent a serious eco-

nomic slowdown. In spite of the easier dollar, inflation has shown little sign of reviving and the money targets and central intervention are nothing like as awkward as they are in London.

If top flight borrowers can soon obtain loans from US banks at a shade below 10 per cent, the economy should gain some stimulus. A weaker dollar and higher consumer spending, following tax rebates, may be more important, along with the upturn in high technology sales. Certainly, the first-quarter annual growth rate, revised down to a mere 0.7 per cent, should be better over the rest of the year.

Selling Federal loans will be made easier by the sustained rise in bond prices. Any lessening of foreign investment, which was even more pronounced in its effect on the dollar than in its contribution to the budget, will be offset to the extent that the deficit may at last be coming under some sort of control.

On the other hand the constant trickle of tablets of all kinds from the Bank of England has limited the beneficial impact of the easier trend of world interest rates on British Government stocks, even piling some of

the gains in longer-dated indexed issues. When deposit rates are higher there is no obvious incentive to invest, though the boat may be missed when interest rates are reduced. The real return on conventional government stocks has narrowed considerably, to the point where it is often negligible for the higher-rate taxpayer.

That monetary policy has been idiosyncratic in the extreme, rather than prudent, stern but complying with market forces — is now being more widely recognised. The Bank of England is intervening daily and on a huge scale to hold down market interest rates and its bill mountain is now passing the valuation put on British Telecom, easily the highest-capitalised issue on the market.

Quite how the Bank will extricate itself is unclear, but it is not going to be through an early cessation of new issues, except briefly during privatisation sales.

The battle against inflation will have to be maintained one way or another if any credibility is to be retained. But higher interest rates solve nothing. Fractional reductions in Government rates may be possible in a few weeks if sterling

remains strong against Continental currencies. Since the dollar is showing resistance to a move to lower levels and the international debt situation is becoming more threatening again, a continuing move to easier dollar rates is essential. Otherwise world economic growth may peter out rapidly, with exporters to the US worst hit.

Protectionism will become a serious threat if recession does rear its head next year. Japan's surplus and the Common Market Agricultural Policy are the worst culprits and the US, though far from innocent, has the best grounds for complaint at present, because it has the worst trade deficit.

If the international scene does turn nasty, currencies and gold, rather than share prices, will command the stage. The move to record share prices in the United States, Britain, Germany and several other countries reflects the ascendancy of capitalism, revived by high profits and lower taxation.

The German mark and local and international stocks in Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Italy, along with some mining issues, may be the safest havens when other areas and commodities come under pressure.

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Copies of the 1984 annual report are available from:

Kleinwort, Benson Limited, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
D-6700 Ludwigshafen



SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON Insurance plc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc was held yesterday at the Head Office of the Company in Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.2.

Lord Aldington, the Chairman, presided and in addressing the Meeting stated —

"Although we do not publish quarterly results you will know that it is my custom at the Annual General Meeting to tell shareholders of our experience since the end of the year. I need hardly remind you that the estimated results for one quarter cannot be taken as a reliable indication of the outcome of the full year.

At Home, the results have been badly affected by the exceptional losses from the severe winter weather at the beginning of the year, estimated to have cost £22M, as compared with the combined Sun Alliance and Phoenix extreme weather losses of £19.5M in 1984. Motor experience was also poor and, overall, there was an increased underwriting loss from our Home business.

Despite an improvement in the U.S.A. there was a further worsening in the overseas underwriting result; in particular, Canada and Australia produced significantly heavier losses — in Australia this was largely due to the January storms and floods in Brisbane, which are estimated to have cost £3.2M.

In aggregate, the underwriting losses have exceeded our investment income and life profits and we estimate, therefore, that we have again incurred a pre-tax loss for the first quarter."

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman, Directors and Staff was proposed by Sir Timothy Bevan.

SPORTS GUARDIAN

CRICKET

Paul Fitzpatrick
£148,000
record to
Boycott

David Foot at Taunton

Botham races to superb 149

THE PREDICTIONS that Geoffrey Boycott's testimonial would be a sizeable one were amply confirmed yesterday when it was announced that the Yorkshire and former England opening batsman had received a record of £117,954.23p. This is almost £20,000 more than the previous record of Jack Simmons, of Lancashire, in 1980.

Boycott's testimonial—he received £20,639 from his benefit in 1974—was due to be announced in February but Boycott resisted mounting pressure from the club's president, Viscount Mountbatten, and secretary, Joe Lister, to give the figure.

Boycott claimed there was nothing sinister in the delay. There were monies outstanding, he said, and it would have been impossible for him to produce an accurate figure in February.

This technically superb batsman, though an enigmatic character, was undoubtedly helped in his fund-raising by the wave of popular sympathy

Taunton marvels at Ian Botham more by the day. His century yesterday, amid the apparent wreckage of a Somerset innings, took him just 78 balls. It equalled the previous fastest of the season, made on this same ground by this same imperious aggressor.

The members rose in doings to tribute to his brilliant century. It was a glittering all-embracing collective item to cherish perhaps almost with the best—certainly the most stunning—in the county's history.

Another West Countryman, Gilbert Jessop, used to describe an extraordinary arc with his bountiful blows without ever looking a flogger. Yesterday, Botham, too, appeared thrillingly in control. Occasionally it seemed that he predetermined his muscular stroke, but that is the nature of the man.

His teammates, who like all county cricketers can be sparingly rather more than their captain has never played better; he's back to the form of the richest years in that cussed and contradictory career of his.

He's number three he has been for a long time, belying the rural studiousness of the waist. He has more zest too, and his England place is what he is rather than a call to a career. The blond hair tops a face of buoyant challenge.

Somerset were 58 for four when he came in. His jet-lagged mate, Viv Richards, just returned from Caribbean games, had batted three half hours. Tremlett had taken three for six in five unerring overs, but Botham took a calm look and then, after lunch, blazed away. There were all 20 fours and six sixes in his 149 when, darning a hard graft with a bat, with whom he had an engrossing battle—he was bowled. He had scored his runs out of 193. It seems churlish to

remember that he was missed in the slips when five—The wicket had been damp and it was not a day to bat first, a point quickly made by Hampshire's deputy captain Terry as he sent Somerset in. By the 31st over, five wickets had gone down.

There were obvious virtues in the early bowling. It could be unimpressive, and Roscock might reasonably say, painful. His finger was broken in the third over by Marshall; he went on to make 18 but will now be out for three weeks. Davis added to Somerset's unwanted casualty station; he too went to hospital with a damaged hand.

Almost entirely due to Botham, the total reached 268. Hampshire, in response, quickly discovered problems themselves and when last light stopped play were 90 for five in 32 overs. Garner, also playing for the first time this season, quickly dismissed Terry; a fine stumping by Gard, and a spectacular catch by Marks to get rid of the talented Robin Smith, threw the match wide open.

Two of the wickets went to Richards, implying that he is going to be used increasingly as an important support bowler. His leisurely seamers have rather more threat once in apparent in the delivery. Turner scored some quick well-earned runs, but his absent skipper Nicholas will read the scoreboard this morning with disbelief and some dismay.

He should have known the nature of a Botham recovery. The sheer strength of the man is remarkable. Here he was, in the evening, opening the bowling again as if he'd been strolling around the Quantock hedgerows with his darning. He was bowled, but he was bowled, but by then he'd been forgiven anything.

Dilip Rao at Northampton

Kent's trial by seam ends in deep gloom

A staunch, unbeaten partnership of 54 between Richard Ellison and Alan Knott relieved the misery into which Kent were plunged yesterday by Northamptonshire's seam bowlers, principally Allan Walker and Jim Giffiths.

Taking the first four wickets in a span of six overs, Walker, who came on first change, kept the hard graft with which Benson and Hicks had laid a foundation to Kent's innings, putting on 58 runs in difficult conditions.

From 60 for one at lunch, Kent were quickly foundering. Griffiths returned to the attack and continued Kent's collapse by taking the next three wickets.

When Kent were 68 for four

and batting was becoming increasingly precarious, Cowdrey decided to counter-attack. His boldness, however, could not turn the tide.

Baptiste and Potter also attempted aggression, but only the former met with any success. The damp that Tuesday's rain had left behind and the cloud that hung low over the ground provided help in plenty for seam bowlers.

After the dismissal of Baptiste, seventh out at 83, there was an hour's stoppage for bad light. When they came back Johnson was at once caught behind off Mallett, who had been unfortunate not to have drawn blood with the new ball in the morning.



COMEBACK: Walter Swinburn should win on his return from suspension on Bella Colera

Cauthen stays on Anchor

D RACING

Richard Baerlein

At the latest forfeit stage before yesterday's final Derby trial—the Schroeder Life Predominate Stakes at Goodwood—39 horses were left in the Ever Ready Derby.

The trial was won in smooth style by Charles St George's Lanfranco, the second string to Slip Anchor in Henry Cecil's bid to win his first Derby.

Lanfranco had been backed from 40-1 downwards in the past fortnight and settled down to 10-1 after yesterday's victory.

Steve Cauthen never had Lanfranco off the bit but still recorded a fast time. However, the victory did not influence Cauthen to change his Derby mount from Slip Anchor, who had finished 10 lengths in front of Lord Grundy at Lingfield.

"Slip Anchor could have won by 25 lengths," said Cauthen, who regards Slip Anchor as the ideal Derby mount.

In the run-up to previous Derbys, Cecil is now in the strong position of having two in the first five in the William Hill Derby betting with Slip Anchor 3-1 and Lanfranco 10-1.

Flyhome had the Chichester Festival Theatre Stakes won by four lengths. This was a second winner for young Lynch who opened his account last season.

John Dunlop, whose older horses have been affected by the cough, has a stable full of promising two-year-olds. He had his first winner from that age group in Taunton, ridden by Willie Carson, swept down on the favourite, Chalk Stream in the last 100 yards.

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GOODWOOD

2 30 Lugman
3 00 Music Machine
3 35 Bella Colera
4 05 Accuracy (nb)
4 40 Star Of A Gunner
5 10 FINE HARMONY (Nap)
5 40 Kiri

JACKPOT (Pool: £2,385) & PLACEPOT: First six races.
DRAW: INCH numbers best over 5 & 6.
REVENUE BLINDERS: 50/100: 50/100

BSC-1

2 30—E.F.F. HALLMARK STAKES: 3-Y-O: 6f: £3,472 (13 runners).

101 (12) 21 LUDMAN (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
102 (13) 30 LUGMAN (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
103 (14) 00 MUSIC MACHINE (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
104 (15) 35 BELLA COLERA (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
105 (16) 40 ACCURACY (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
106 (17) 45 STAR OF A GUNNER (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
107 (18) 50 FINE HARMONY (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
108 (19) 55 KIRI (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
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110 (21) 65 MUSIC MACHINE (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
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112 (23) 75 ACCURACY (Hammer Al-Matmon) P. Walters 9-2 J. Mercer
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MPs' team criticises Government on famine aid

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Government has been strongly criticised for failing to provide fresh funds for the African famine relief operation in a report from the Commons foreign affairs committee.

The 359-page document, the result of some nine months' work and journeys into the Sahel drought belt in Africa, reveals that the British public responded to the crisis with \$67 million of "new money" in the form of voluntary donations. Whitehall's response of

\$60 million was a book transfer at the expense of other projects in the aid programme. Mrs Thatcher has insisted that the amount and the projected \$90 million in the current financial year, must come from within the budget.

The committee, chaired by Sir Anthony Kershaw, a former Tory minister, draws a sharp contrast between the generous response of the public and the Government's ruling that no new money should be provided.

"We consider it is not ac-

ceptable that almost the entire costs of the UK response to the crisis should fall on the previously agreed budget of the Overseas Development Administration," says the report. "The emergency is of such a degree that it must be regarded as a new situation and substantial new money should be provided to help with it. The ODA budget should be increased to accommodate the exceptional expenditure, so that funds are not diverted from longer-term development work."

The committee began work

immediately after the first of the horrifying television reports from Ethiopia on British screens in July 1984. Sir Anthony and his 10-man committee of government and opposition MPs repeated the option of a short, quick report for the Commons in favour of a more detailed examination with trips in the field during parliamentary recesses. They travelled to the western end of the Sahara belt in Mali and Senegal as well as crossing devastated parts of Ethiopia and the Sudan up to the Chad border.

The team discovered that Whitehall had imposed a rigid ceiling of 110,000 tons of food aid from Britain, per year and had revised to build about the commitment of 1.2 million tons of grain for the drought-hit countries of Africa turned out to be false. More than half was "old grain" like Mrs Thatcher's old money. One third of the total was not EEC grain but amounts already pledged by individual member states. Another 300,000 tons was already pledged under the EEC's "regular food aid programme."

It was clear that most of the fresh grain was not from Common Market stockpiles "but from non-intervention sources due to the lengthy EEC procedures otherwise involved."

The report concludes: "The committee expresses its profound disquiet at the position whereby large stocks of grain, grown and held at considerable public expense, cannot be made readily available for emergency aid. We recommend that the British Government initiate urgent action to make this possible in any future emergency."

Palumbo turns sights to new design

By Martin Pawley and
Martin Walwright

MR PETER PALUMBO is to commission an alternative development "within a few months" for the City of London Mansion House site after the rejection by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Environmental Secretary yesterday, of his plans for a tower block opposite Mansion House.

Mr Palumbo, who had spent 27 years pursuing his dream of building a skyscraper designed by the late Miles van der Rohe, said after Mr Jenkin's decision: "The Miles scheme was a masterpiece. It is not to be excused as Miles conceived it, it must remain unbuild. The Miles scheme is dead."

But the 53-year-old Etonian added that the letter of refusal from Mr Jenkin's department "positively invites another 'high technology' architect proposal for the site."

He intends, therefore, to appoint a new firm of architects to develop a new design, taking up most of the original development site, including the listed buildings which fired the imaginations of many conservationists, opposed to the Miles tower.

Mr Jenkin had found the 23-storey tower, built, painted and, he hoped, out of scale with its proposed neighbours like the Mansion House and Westminster Abbey, as "unacceptable" in its scale and character as a replacement.

"However fine a new building might be, there must be a proper concern for its effect on its surroundings," said Mr Jenkin. "Good architecture is not only a matter of style, it is also a matter of harmony with the surroundings. By that test the proposed development fails."

What encouragement there was for Mr Palumbo, came in references to Mr Jenkin to the desirability of a square outside the Mansion House, which formed part of the original plan and of the need for the City to have "efficient, modern buildings."

"The proposal to create a new square is a generous concept," said Mr Jenkin. "and the proposed underground shopping concourse would be of high quality."

"For the City to function efficiently as a world financial centre it needs to adapt to the requirements of the modern world. It would be wrong to attempt to freeze the character of the City of London for all time."

Mr Jenkin's views echoed those of the Environment Department Inspector, Mr Stephen Marks, who last year conducted a public inquiry into the proposals, which have been hotly opposed not only by conservationists but also by much of the City and by the Prince of Wales.

It was mistakenly reported in the Guardian yesterday that Richard Rogers, the architect for the new Lloyd's of London building were rejected by planners. In fact the building is nearing completion.

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Kinnock defeats Benn over call for change

By John Carvel,
Political Correspondent

An attempt by Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer to open a new debate on organisational change in the Labour Party was defeated by the national executive yesterday.

The party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, rebuffed Mr Benn's call for a new Labour/TUC joint economic policy statement containing "a clearly anti-socialist element."

The incidents demonstrate Mr Kinnock's determination to hold on to the executive and growing self-confidence in dealing with the party's internal exchange of power.

Mr Benn said that it was an inadequate and incredible document which even Mr Francis Pym could have found acceptable. He criticised references to building a new consensus, to the place of market forces in investment decisions and to the need to face economic realities.

Mr Kinnock said that such remarks could not go unchallenged. There was nothing unsocialist about seeking to build a new consensus, to direct investment or facing economic realities. Most workers had to face economic reality every day.

Mr Benn and Mr Heffer had tried to start a debate about the party's strategy and organisation and submitted a lengthy paper criticising the NEC's loss of power in the party.

Counting began yesterday, but the indications last night were that rank-and-file members of the ISC feel strongly

its proposals included a constitutional conference, similar to the one held when the party was founded in 1918, which would draw the women's movement, ethnic communities, the peace movement and other appropriate special interest groups into affiliation.

The paper also suggested that Labour cabinets and shadow cabinets might be chosen by the same electoral college procedure which elects the leader and deputy leader.

It recommended more campaigning around struggles against the Government and attacked purges in the party.

Mr Benn and Mr Heffer had been trying to persuade the NEC to refer their document to its committees and to prepare a response to it. This was rejected by 14 votes to 12.

Mr Michael Meacher and Mr David Blunkett supported Mr Benn despite their growing accord with Mr Kinnock on his policy approach. They argued that the document should be allowed to proceed even if they did not endorse its contents.

However, Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, called it "an infinitely trivial paper." A decision to send it through the party machinery might lead to direct investment or facing economic realities. Most workers had to face economic reality every day.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, told Mr Kinnock last night that unless he was prepared to consider power-sharing and proportional representation the Alliance and the Tories would form a minority government in the event of a hung Parliament.

Steelworkers back levy

From Keith Harper,
Labour Editor

The steelworkers' union has become the second union to support the retention of a political fund in a ballot of its members. An announcement expected today by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation will show that members have voted by a substantial majority in favour of a political levy.

Counting began yesterday, but the indications last night were that rank-and-file members of the ISTC feel strongly

that a political fund is important in presenting its case in Parliament. The decision by the ISTC follows closely on that of the print union, Sagat '82, which voted earlier this month for the retention of a political fund.

The only union already to vote which may have doubt about the future of the political fund is the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff, where balloting may go on until the final day of March next year in an attempt to encourage members to vote.

Teachers insist on pay deal priority

By John Fairhall,
Education Editor

Teachers' leaders said last night that they will not consider future pay structure until the 1985 claim has been settled.

The offers of extra money for 1986-7 made by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary in return for an agreement on contractual duties and promotion indicated some movement by the government, said Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

"But these are all matters for the future. They cannot be discussed before we have a settlement for 1985."

The timing of Sir Keith's proposals just ahead of today's resumed negotiations, was not helpful, said Mr McAvoy.

The last Burnham Committee meeting last Wednesday, broke up with the promise of an improved offer today, generally assumed to mean a figure of 6 per cent.

"If they now offer us less than 6 per cent it will be an admission of the employers having been monstrously misled by the position," Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said last night.

By yesterday three quarters of the counties had replied to a letter from the Association of county councils asking at what level the employers should settle.

A few have said they could go beyond 5 per cent but 70 per cent said they could pay only 4.5 or, at the very most, 5 per cent.

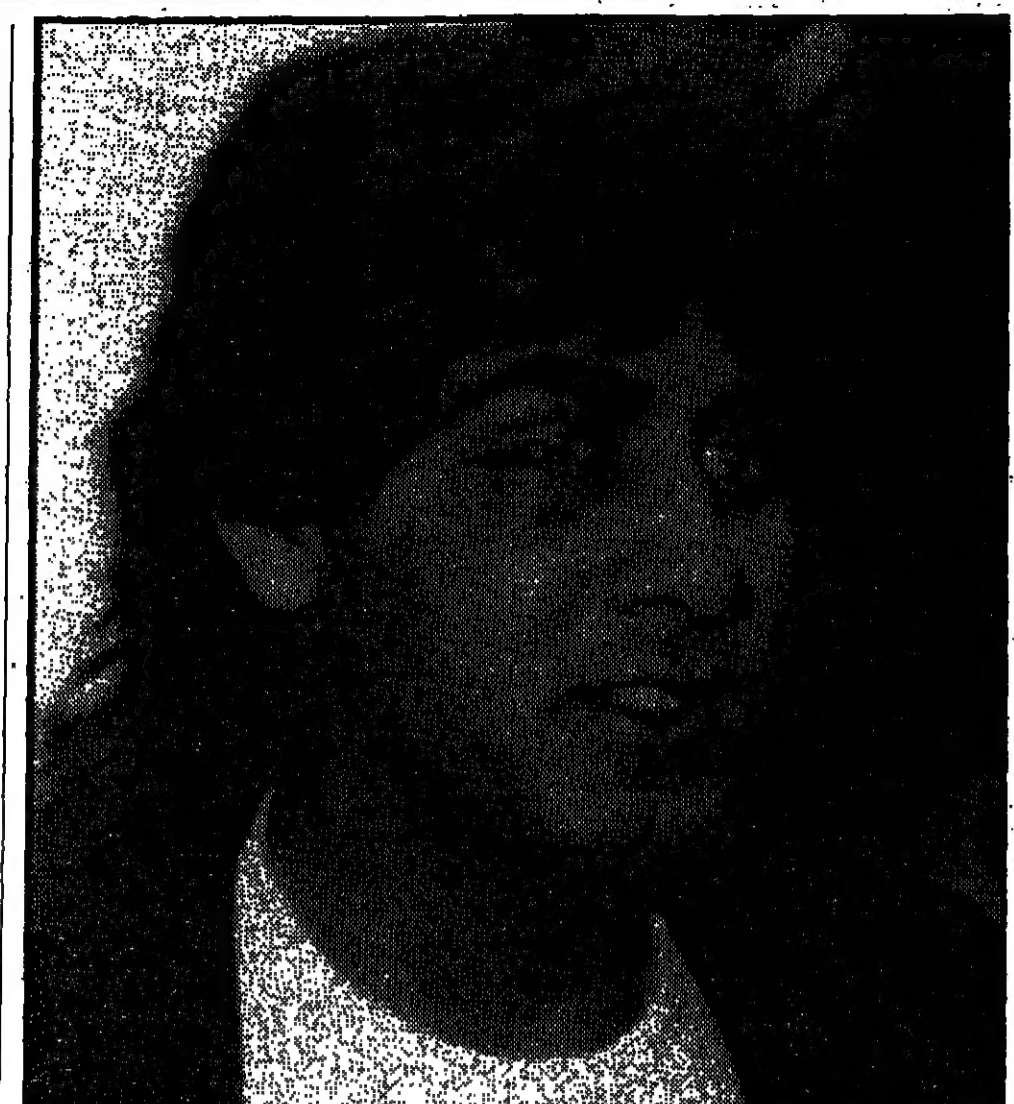
At the Conservative women's conference in London yesterday, the Prime Minister sharply criticised the teachers' strike action and warmly commended Sir Keith's new initiative.

Mrs Thatcher said the Government recognised that the teachers wanted to earn more money but said their average earnings had risen since 1979 by 9 per cent more than inflation. "So teachers have not lost out under this Government."

Mr Smithies said the Prime Minister was exercising her well-known talent for manipulating figures.

It was "singularly hypocritical" for Mrs Thatcher to take a 1979 base line—the year teachers had their Clegg award of more than 30 per cent.

Pupils at risk, page 3.



Asian 'beaten up at court'

Continued from page one

"Inevitably there are going to be great tensions between the defendants and the prison officers after what had happened."

Judge Denison reserved judgment on this until today. He granted an adjournment to allow Kahn and his solicitor to go to nearby St Bartholomew's hospital. "There are bound to be two sides to any story. It may have to be investigated but I do not make any order about this at the moment."

The prosecution, led by Mr Michael Kishner, QC, had barely begun its case before the court was interrupted by the court heard only that the case was about "a series of violent confrontations between white and Asian youths in the East End of London on April 7, 1984."

The other six Asian defendants are Amir Ali, aged 21, Zafar Kahn, Parvaz's brother, aged 18, Mohammed Hanif, aged 18, Bahadur Kahn, aged

22, Athar Chaudri, aged 19, and Jothi Rajappan, aged 17. All except Chaudri are charged with affray. All the Kahn brothers, Bahadur, Athar and Hanif are charged with criminal damage, and the brothers and Rajappan are also charged with possessing offensive weapons. Chaudri is charged with having a spangler with the intent to cause criminal damage, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and conspiracy to cause criminal damage.

Two of the white accused, Roy Lellow, aged 26, and his brother Robert, aged 21, are charged with affray and common assault. The third, Stuart Young, aged 22, is charged with assault.

The prosecution was unable to open its case during the morning owing to the high number of challenges by prospective jurors. From a panel of 170, 87 jurors were named before a jury comprising two

Afro-Caribbean women, a Sikh man, six white men and three white women was sworn in.

Defence counsel for the seven Asians employed a total of 21 challenges—all against whites—and those acting for the whites used four, all against blacks. The prosecution rejected a record 29 jurors, all white, before the last, one of the black women, was sworn in.

After the swearing-in but before the case began, all defence counsel for the Asians applied unsuccessfully for a new jury. The argument that the jury's racial composition meant it would not be able adequately to understand the background to the case and thus to guarantee a fair trial.

The judge earlier asked whether any of the jurors was a member of, or a sympathiser with an extremist organisation, naming the National Front and the Revolutionary Communist Party as examples.

The hearing continues today.

Alliance, Labour share 6pc lead

Continued from page one

The Alliance taking 33.5 per cent, the Conservatives 33.2 and Labour 32 recalling the 1929 result in the constituency where all three main parties won 33 per cent.

The simplest explanation for the sudden Alliance surge is the high profile enjoyed by the Liberals and the SDP since the county council elections on May 2. Although their share of the vote was not particularly impressive—about 25.5 per cent—they have been in the public eye after winning the balance of power in many counties and extensive media coverage.

It has always been the Alliance contention that the opinion polls normally understate their support and when voters are prompted or reminded of the existence of the Alliance, as in a by-election, their vote rises rapidly.

This latest poll may be a dramatic demonstration of this but, if so, it would imply that this Alliance surge will soon begin to recede.

Although Mr Kinnock appears to be uncomfortable at the thought of Mr Steel and Dr Owen breathing down his neck, the Labour Party has no real need to panic over the Alliance's strong showing, which would in fact improve Labour's chances of beating the Conservatives in an election.

The polling was carried out between May 9 and May 13, ending on the same date as the polls by Gallup and by MORI in the Sunday Times, but it does not appear to bear out the results of the MORI survey, which put the Alliance in third place with 28 per cent behind the Tories at 34 and Labour at 36.

● The Guardian Marplan Index was based on a tightly-controlled quota sample of 1,451 adults aged 18-plus in 103 randomly selected constituencies. Interviewing was conducted face to face between May 9 and May 13.

Rajiv visit

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is expected to visit Britain before the end of the year, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, told the Commons yesterday.

Mr Jenkin's views echoed those of the Environment Department Inspector, Mr Stephen Marks, who last year conducted a public inquiry into the proposals, which have been hotly opposed not only by conservationists but also by much of the City and by the Prince of Wales.

It was mistakenly reported in the Guardian yesterday that Richard Rogers, the architect for the new Lloyd's of London building were rejected by planners. In fact the building is nearing completion.

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His proposal to merge with Debenhams to pioneer the redesign of their stores was turned down in January. Now he stands to take 900,000 square feet of sales space in the equity stake and the lucrative design contracts.

Burton is offering three of its ordinary shares and £2.50p in cash for every five Debenhams shares. The terms were described as "totally inadequate" by Debenhams. The Debenhams board insisted that it is already introducing the Galleria concept in the US.

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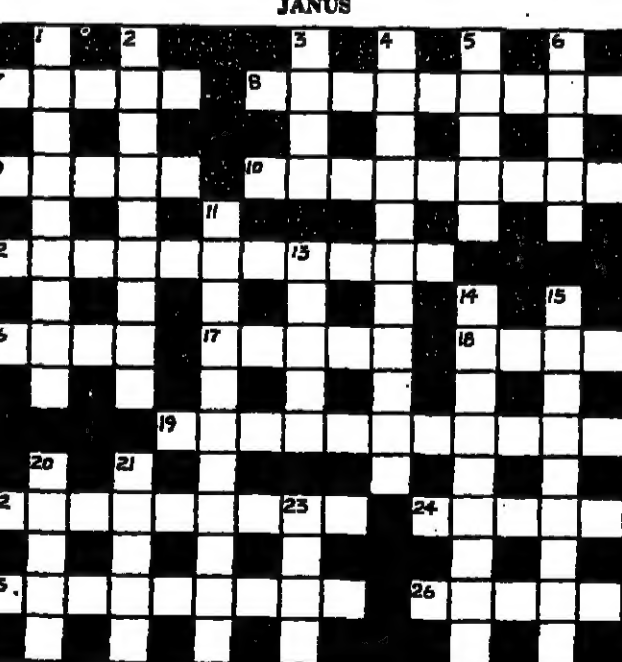
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GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,243

JANUS



- ACROSS
- Being stippled is crazy! (5).
 - Blimey! Mr McGregor turning Communist! How's that for a spicy item? (9).
 - Very much like a French artist (5).
 - Measure taken to smell out a hypocrite (9).
 - Kind of form to show diligence (11).
 - Country encircled by their antagonists (4).
 - Very large object rejected at one Italian port (15).
 - Leave by return transport (4).

- DOWN
- Unwisely make insinuations about coarse book (11).
 - Protect worker when accused (9).
 - Glad model is dim (5).
 - Press drinks on soldier (9).
 - Gathered data about some calculator (5).
 - He smiles on losing merchandise (wine) (4, 5).
 - Shocking for novice in the beginning (9).
 - Pay close attention to the smallest of openings (4).
 - Weapon or badge of an actor? (4, 7).
 - Fruit-girl (5).
 - China was first to come up with measure (5).
 - Provide with loan for house (11).
 - Coach-race containing turn around to right (5).
 - Criteria that may be flagging (9).
 - Offer to get round trouble with rabbit (4-5).
 - Bar's turn to make merry (5).
 - Drank up at headquarters (5).
 - Doctor writing up article on ointment (4).

Solution tomorrow

PM gives no quarter to 'fainthearts' Debenhams £480 m offer

Continued from page one

Whiteley answered criticism from the Tory women about the Government's failure to get its policy message across and warned wets in the party that a vote for the Government could mean a vote for a new constitution, could mean a vote for a new constitution, could mean a vote for a new constitution.

But yesterday's speech confirmed that Mrs Thatcher will yield no ground to critics who express nervousness about her radicalism. She told the Tory women, who gave her the expected rousing reception, that she would not waver.

Colin Brown adds: Viscount

and their well-organised campaign against our leader, Mrs Thatcher?

"Perhaps I am as entitled as anyone in the party to say that of course the leader has to take all the sniping and all the brickbats at times of difficulties and disappointments. But when you think of what our country, our party and the world owes to her for her outstanding courage and determination, then how petty and negligible criticisms on the doorstep are."

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THE WEATHER

Showers, some sun

A SHALLOW ridge of high pressure will build over S districts as depressions move towards NW Scotland.

London, SE, Cent S, E, Cent N and NE. Mild, mainly cloudy with a slight drizzle at first, but showers or perhaps intervals of rain later. Wind, W, 10-15 mph. Max 12-14°C (54-57°F).

Belfast, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Shetland, Arrol, N Ireland, mainly cloudy with a slight drizzle at first, but showers or perhaps intervals of rain later. Wind, W, 10-15 mph. Max 12-14°C (54-57°F).

Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, NW Fife, NE and NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, mainly cloudy with a slight drizzle at first, but showers or perhaps intervals of rain later. Wind, W, 10-15 mph. Max 12-14°C (54-57°F).

LISTENING TIMES
Belfast 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Birmingham 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Bristol 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Cardiff 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
London 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Manchester 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Newcastle 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
Nottingham 10.30 am to 4.30 pm

HIGH-TIME TABLE
London Bridge 4.30 am to 4.30 pm
Liverpool 4.30 am to 4.30 pm
SUN RISES 4.30 am
SUN SETS 6.30 pm
MOON RISES 12.07 am
MOON SETS 7.02 am
NOON: First quarter May 27

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Time	Weather
Algeria	10.30	Cloudy
Algiers	10.30	Cloudy
Amman	10.30	Cloudy
Ankara	10.30	Cloudy
Antwerp	10.30	Cloudy
Athens	10.30	Cloudy
Auckland	10.30	Cloudy
Bahia	10.30	Cloudy
Baku	10.30	Cloudy
Bombay	10.30	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	10.30	Cloudy
Burgas	10.30	Cloudy
Calcutta	10.30	Cloudy
Cardiff	10.30	Cloudy
Cebu	10.30	Cloudy
Chengdu	10.30	Cloudy
Chongqing	10.30	Cloudy
Copenhagen	10.30	Cloudy
Dacca	10.30	Cloudy
Damascus	10.30	Cloudy
Dar es Salaam	10.30	Cloudy
Delhi	10.30	Cloudy
Dhaka	10.30	Cloudy
Dublin	10.30	Cloudy
Edinburgh	10.30	Cloudy
Geneva	10.30	Cloudy
Hankow	10.30	Cloudy
Hong Kong	10.30	Cloudy
Hull	10.30	Cloudy
Istanbul	10.30	Cloudy
Kobe	10.30	Cloudy
Kuala Lumpur	10.30	Cloudy
Lahore	10.30	Cloudy
London	10.30	Cloudy
Lyons	10.30	Cloudy
Manila	10.30	Cloudy
Medan	10.30	Cloudy